

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

PRIDE, COSMOS, STRIKERS AXED!

WOLVES' WIN SPARK SHAKE-UP AT SOUTHS

Sunday's grand final loss to Wollongong Wolves is likely to spell the end for majority of South Melbourne's old-reliables as Coach Mickey Petersen has hinted at a drastic overhaul of the aging squad.

It may mark the end of an era at South Melbourne, with the core of the current squad boasting of an average age of 32. "It was an older squad that started the campaign and it can be the end of an era. The current core group would probably change significantly if it wanted to remain a force."

"You always need change in football clubs but it's probably not something you want to contemplate right now."

"It is draining being in charge of a group and I probably take things too much to heart. I don't know if I am meant to be a career coach but this year has been an enjoyable one."

A philosophical Petersen added, "I'm

hurting right now but life is like that. Maybe sometimes you have to hurt a little bit before you can enjoy the rewards."

On his team's performance and the eventual outcome of the game, Petersen admitted, "I haven't had time to congratulate Wollongong who I thought were comprehensively the better team throughout the finals series."

"They (Wollongong) are just a bloody good group and that's what you strive for. It's no coincidence that the two clubs with very tight groups are playing off for the biggest prize."

The ex-Socceroos midfielder once again reiterated that the Minor Premiers deserve to be crowned champions but agreed that the NSL needed a showpiece like the Grand Final.

"While of course I'm disappointed, from a purist level it was a good quality game and from that part I enjoyed the game."

By Emma Nwaneri

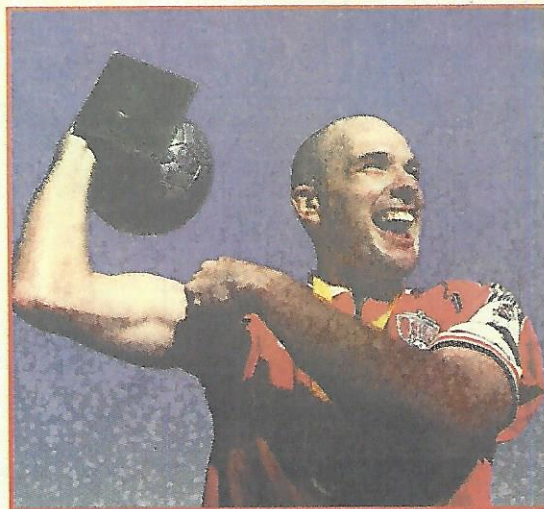
Finally, Soccer Australia swung its long-awaited axe on the National Soccer League (NSL) by reducing it to a 12-team competition.

The move, coming just 24 hours after the Grand Final, threw out Canberra Cosmos, Eastern Pride and Brisbane Strikers from the NSL.

At a media conference in Sydney, addressed by Soccer Australia chairman, Tony Labbozzetta, the soccer-ruling body announced that the action was merely in conformity with the decision of the board of directors, to reduce the league to a 12-team competition.

Labbozzetta explained that Eastern Pride and Canberra Cosmos were affected due to the fact that they were no longer 'going concerns'.

The choice of Brisbane Strikers is particularly shocking, in view of the fact that they emerged NSL champions in 1996/97 and attracted a whopping 40,000 crowd to their grand final game in Brisbane.

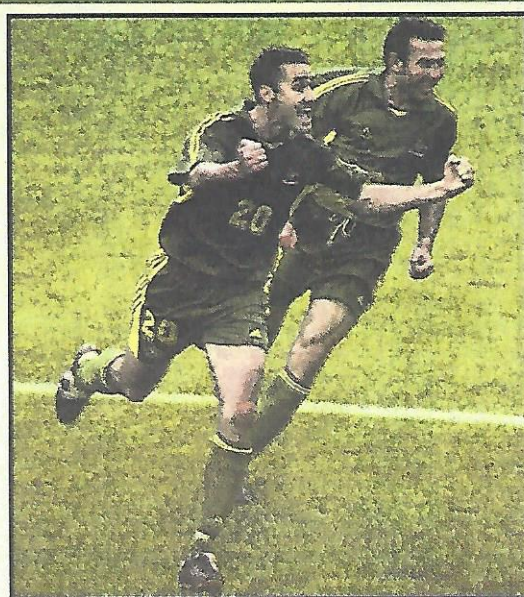


THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN: Wollongong captain Matt Horsley proudly holds aloft NSL Grand Final trophy after defeating South Melbourne 2-1.

JUNE 1 — DAY AUSTRALIA RULED THE WORLD



Gregory Coupet of France fails to hold the shot which Clayton Zane of Australia slotted into the net seconds later during the 2001 FIFA Confederations Cup Group A match between France and Australia played at the Daegu World Cup Stadium, Daegu, Korea.



Clayton Zane of Australia celebrates his memorable goal with team mate Stan Lazaridis during the Group A match between France and Australia, which reverberated around the entire world.

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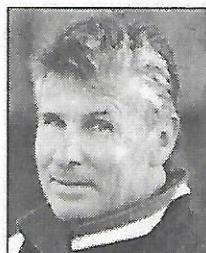
Corry, Petersen, Cullina vie for Best Coach

Grand Final coaches Ron Corry (Wollongong Wolves) and Mike Petersen (South Melbourne), along with Sydney Olympic's Branko Culina, have been nominated for Coach of the Year in the forthcoming National Soccer League Awards Night.

Both Corry and Petersen have been nominated for their first time, while Culina has previously won the Award in season 1996/1997.

The Coach of the Year award is decided by votes cast from fellow NSL coaches, conducted for the first time after the Preliminary Final had been played.

The NSL Awards Night will be held on Saturday 9 June, at the Star City Grand Harbour Ballroom with the Coach's award being one of many awards issued on the night.



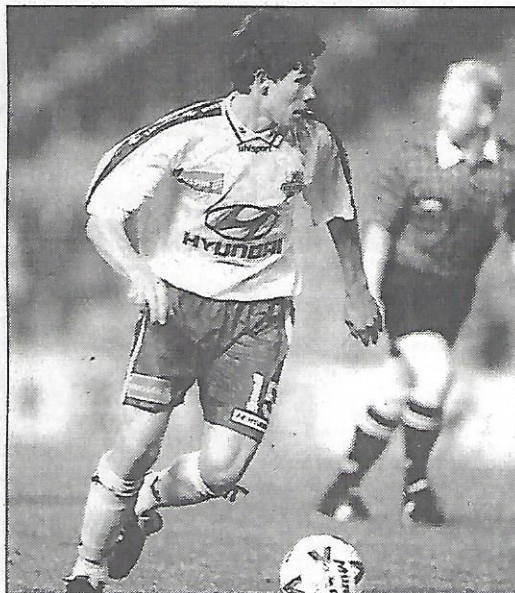
Ronnie Corry



Mickey Petersen



Branko Culina



Wayne Srhoj: U20 Socceroos' Argentina-bound midfielder.

Man Utd enters pact with Parramatta Eagles

World-famous English clubside, Manchester United have extended their tentacles in search of new talents to Australia by forging an alliance with Sydney-based NSW league side, Parramatta Melita Eagles.

Following a recent visit to Australia by Manchester's assistant coach, Brian McClair, the club's Academy Director, Les Kershaw announced last week that the English champions have initiated moves in that wise and that 'plans are underway to have a vested interest in Australia. Parramatta Melita Eagles are based in Sydney. Around 60percent of the football in Australia is played in the New South Wales area.'

Speaking further on the venture, Kershaw revealed that, 'They presented a business plan to United and Brian went over to Sydney for ten days recently to have a look. He was very impressed with the set-up there. They have a first-class youth development programme and it will become a mechanism for protecting our interests in Australia.'

Melita Eagles will therefore join a

growing network of Man. Utd partner clubs in Ireland, Sweden, and Belgium as the English side spread their tentacles to all nooks and crannies of the world.

SA treats Cosmos like Lepers - Moulis

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos chairman Danny Moulis says his club have been treated 'like lepers' in the weeks since the completion of an appeal process against their dismissal from the National Soccer League.

With the decision on whether the Cosmos will receive a reprieve days away, Moulis revealed the only recent contact with the sport's governing body had been through solicitors' letters. He said the attitude of Soccer Australia had been both unresponsive and unfair.

"Since the review process for all clubs was completed, we have made attempts to contact Soccer Australia with developments that further indicate our ability to compete as a going concern, but they are not interested," he said.

"We were told quite specifically that we could not provide further information.

"Yet we have learnt at least one other club has actually been requested to provide fur-

ther evidence of financial support. This is inconsistent and unfair and we contest it."

A letter received via Soccer Australia's solicitors denied any club 'which has passed the going concern test' had been asked to supply further information 'however, there has been on-going contact with clubs which were ranked and which necessarily had passed the going concern test.

"These communications have nothing to do with Canberra Cosmos which, like Eastern Pride, was found by the review committee to have failed to meet the going concern test.

"Your client was informed of the view of the review committee and unsuccessfully challenged that on appeal before an independent appeal board."

That paragraph is particularly disturbing to the Cosmos as the club reads the appeal

decision differently. The board, while agreeing with Soccer Australia that the club was not a going concern at a point in the past, nevertheless recommended it remain in the competition, thus admitting the club could well be a going concern now, and suggesting up-to-date data be taken into account in a decision on the make-up of the competition in 2001-02.

Moulis said the national body had been caught out. "Here we have Soccer Australia's lawyer happily admitting to on-going contact with other clubs on what it takes for them to get into next year's NSL, but no one will talk to us.

"We are still a member club of the National Soccer League and it's about time Soccer Australia woke up to itself. They can fix it or face the consequences."

The chairman refused to comment further, but there is little doubt that with his background as a lawyer, and with access to the best legal advice on sports law, an unsatisfactory outcome would see the matter move on to the courts.



Danny Moulis

GOALS' GALORE IN AUCKLAND AS SOCCEROOS' FOES LOCK HORNS

The Solomon Islands swamped Cook Islands 9-1 and Tahiti overwhelmed Vanuata 6-1 in the opening World Cup qualifiers in the Oceania zone Group 2 on Monday.

The winner of the group is expected to face the Socceroos in a home and

away series to decide Oceania champions, who will then lock horns with a yet-unknown South America for the world-cup ticket proper.

Patterson Daudau and Commis Menapi both hit hat-tricks for the Solomon Islands, who cruised home after conceding a goal in the fifth minute.

Naea Bennett scored a hat-trick for Tahiti, who avenged a 3-2 loss to Vanuatu last year in emphatic fashion.

Tahiti coach Patrick Jacquemet said that, with little preparation for the tournament after the Tahitian season ended three weeks ago, he was happy with the result before Wednesday's match against hosts New Zealand, the fifth team in the group.

Tony Senechal gave Tahiti the lead in the 26th minute and Bennett scored in the 35th and 41st minutes to put them 3-0 up at half-time.

Harold Amaru made it 4-0 in the 53rd minute with a beautiful lob from 40 metres over Vanuatu goalkeeper David Chilla.

Vanuatu pulled a goal

back three minutes later through Simon Lauru and the same player hit the crossbar a minute later.

Batram Suri equalised for the Solomon Islands in the 13th minute and Daudau and Menapi added further goals in the 18th and 30th minutes to put them 3-1 up at half-time.

Sydney United's Menapi scored his second in the 52nd minute and the classy Daudau completed his hat-trick with goals in the 54th and 76th minutes.

The last 10 minutes were a nightmare for the Cooks as the Solomons ran riot and scored in the 84th, 85th and 89th minutes through David Furisua, Menapi and Henry Koto.

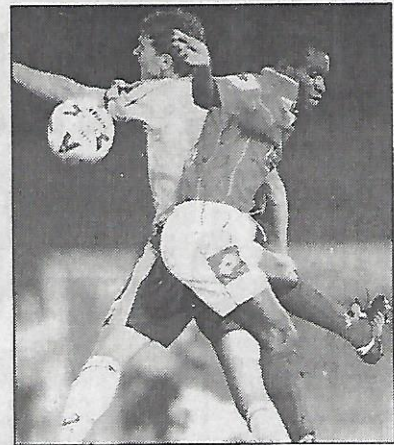
ALL THE RESULTS

Tahiti 6
Vanuatu 1

Solomon Islands 9
Cook Islands 1

NEXT GAMES

June 6
Tahiti v New Zealand
June 6
Cook Islands v Vanuatu



Cummins Menapi (right): Notched-up a hat-trick for his country, Solomon Islands.

FERRANTE OPTS OUT OF U20 W-CUP SQUAD

Midfielder Michael Ferrante pulled out of the Young Socceroo squad which left for the FIFA World Youth Championships in Argentina on Sunday morning.

Ferrante had cited a hectic year with his English club West Ham, and late this week told coach Ange Postecoglou he would prefer to have a rest.

"It was disappointing," said Postecoglou. Michael has been there all along, but at the end of the day it is important for us to have 18 guys who are totally committed to the World Championships.

"He had a think about things and decided that in the end, it would be best for him to take a break after the busy year he had on a club level."

To replace Ferrante, Postecoglou called in South Australian Louis Brain back into the side. "Louis did very well in Japan during the East-Asia Games recently, and was unlucky not to get selected into the original 18."

"He is keen and ready to go now... we are all looking forward to it," Postecoglou concluded.

The Young Socceroos departed Sydney, Sunday morning for Chile, where they will play two games against Canada and either Chile or Egypt, before heading to Rosario for the FIFA World Youth Championships on June 17.



Louis Brain:
Replacement for
Ferrante.

PLAYERS WANTED URGENTLY

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Gunghalin pull-off miraculous comeback

By Graham Cooke

It was a performance worthy of champions. With 65 minutes gone Gunghalin Juventus were 3-0 down against Capital City Suns and had missed a penalty.

Yet from there, four goals, the last two in stoppage time, sealed one of the most remarkable comebacks seen in the ACT Premiership.

A relieved Juventus coach, Ian Heywood, admitted the hole which Juventus had dug for themselves would have been enough to bury most teams. "We paid the penalty for missed chances in the first half and should never have been 3-0 down," he said.

In the end it was a couple of second-half substitutes and some hidden reserves discovered by leading scorer Steve Lazzari that turned the game.

The injection of veteran Craig Rankine and 17-year-old Yosef Zamora put some steel into Juventus' game, while Lazzari, who was obviously feeling the strain of playing for the NSW Superleague representative team the day before, managed two goals to make up for his earlier penalty miss.

The first of the seven goals did not come until seven minutes before half-time. The lively David Sanchez set up Goran Josifovski, who turned one defender and shook off another before shooting home.

A minute before half-time the Suns went 2-0 up through Tony Aleksovski, and appeared to be coasting when Pat Phommaseis made it 3-0 13 minutes into the second half.

A dreadful penalty take from Lazzari which just trickled up to goalkeeper Phil Cowlishaw, appeared to be setting the scene for a disastrous afternoon for Juventus, but some intense pressure a few minutes later found the striker in the right place to touch the ball over the line.

Then Cowlishaw made a

reaction save from Oscar Zamora to push the shot round the post, and from the corner, the younger Lazzari, Martin, got into the act with a goal.

It seemed as if the Suns may have survived when the clock ticked into stoppage time, but Steve Lazzari's striking partner, George Cattanach, still had a key role to play.

Within two minutes he had scored the equaliser, then provided the cross, which Matt Valeri cleverly allowed to run on for Lazzari to beat the wrong-footed Cowlishaw.

It was a result that left Suns

coach Bill Dojcinovski almost speechless. "There is no way we should have lost from that position," he said. "We were showing our inexperience, while Juventus had the experienced players to come back."

Monaro continued their recent good form with a 2-1 win over Canberra Olympic, both goals coming from veteran Jimmy Baxter. Danny Macor was Olympic's lone marksman.

The University of Canberra were brought down to earth after their win over Juventus the week before, losing 3-1 to Belconnen United; Weston

Creek added to Tuggeranong United's miserable season by beating the battara club 2-1, prompting United coach Graham Plath to wonder once

again whether his decision to withdraw his resignation last month had been the right one. Carl Pideski scored United's goal.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	5	4	1	0	16	4	13
Gunghalin Juventus	5	4	0	1	18	6	12
Monaro	5	4	0	1	11	7	12
Canberra Olympic	6	3	0	3	13	10	9
Capital City Suns	5	3	0	2	14	13	8
Belconnen United	6	2	0	4	8	11	6
Weston Creek Royals	5	2	0	3	6	18	6
University of Canberra	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
Tuggeranong United	6	0	0	6	5	19	0

Sydney Sports & Cultural Exchange

Are inviting players in the Under 18 Age Group to participate in final Trials for their forthcoming tour departing 20th July to play in Singapore and England to be held at Lambert Park, Leichhardt, on Monday 11th June.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
INTERESTED PARTIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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(Ex-Socceroo)

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(Home) (02) 9905 7309

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ARCHIE BLUE

Oh, what a season! (1)



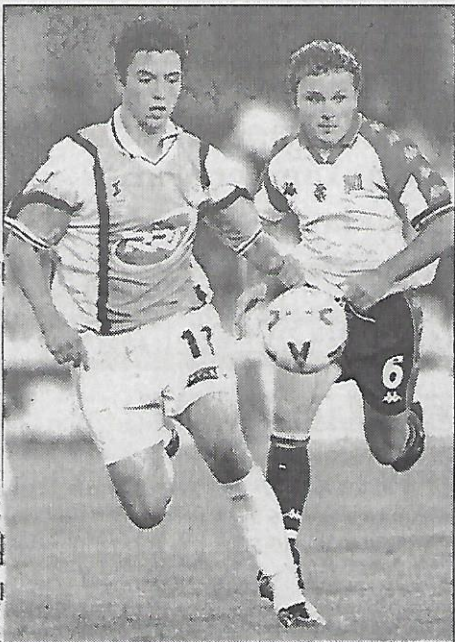
There's the collapse of Carlton, demise of Eastern Pride, accusations of racist taunts, Knights supporters on the rampage, tortuous restructuring of the league, a bitterly-fought election of Tony Labbozzetta as chairman of Soccer Australia and loss of revenue from the world cup for clubs.

Victorian Editor BERT VAN BEDAF looks back on a troubled season that culminated in back-to-back titles for Wollongong Wolves.

Season 2000/2001 staged a cracking finale with the only teams deserving of a grand final berth fighting for the title.

On the day Wollongong proved a goal better than minor premier South Melbourne. There are sprinters and there are stayers. The Wolves ripped the Blues apart in a devastating two-minute spell that netted them two goals and back-to-back titles.

As South's benched captain Paul Trimboli said afterwards, "We had a few good chances. But Wollongong were too good for us. It was a physical game, but we can't complain."



John Hutchinson (Left): Eastern Pride's promising striker. Financial problems at the club beclouded his entire season.

South coach Mike Petersen might think back on his rash decision - and possibly worst decision of the season - to leave Trimboli on the bench and bringing him on as substitute for a second time. When "Trimmers" came on (for Zeljko Susa in the 65th minute) he was inspirational. It eventually resulted in South's goal.

John Anastasiadis got South within striking distance with his third goal in his third grand final and his second against his brother Dean, keeping goal for Wollongong since coming across from Carlton.

"Big J" has been coming off the bench all season and maybe he, also, might have deserved a first-up start, ahead of Vaughan Coveny.

Steve Panopoulos was under a (hamstring) injury cloud. Perhaps the discarded David Clarkson could have provided more midfield drive.

This, of course, is all easy talk after the event. As Johnny Warren remarked on SBS's On The Ball, "The great coaches always are the ones after the game", and nothing could have stolen the trophy away from the resolute Wollongong Wolves. They proved better at starting at the special occasions than South, who lost 2-1 three times in three weeks to the winners.

It was a great game between a former Oceania champion (South Melbourne) and the reigning Oceania champion. South failed to make history by winning a record fifth title but Wollongong made club history and became the third club to win two in a row in six years, following on from the Melbourne Knights and South.

This grand final was brought forward to 12 noon from 3pm and tele-

vised live by the Seven Network. The crowd was disappointing, just over 13,000 from last year's 42,000 in Perth.

Nevertheless, for the third time in its 24 seasons, the NSL attracted more than a million spectators. The average attendance per game was 5,122.

Perth Glory, South Melbourne and New Zealand's Football Kingz recorded the highest averages at their grounds.

It hasn't been a smooth season. Before a ball was kicked, Newcastle Breakers were out of the competition. Soccer Australia rejected the Breakers when the club could not meet SA's selection criteria.

Fortunately, Sydney business millionaire Con Constantine stepped in to set up Newcastle United and run a new team in the NSL.

Brisbane Strikers were still at war with the Queensland Soccer Federation over outstanding bills, but they Breakers managed to be part of the competition that began with 16 teams.

Similarly, Canberra Cosmos eventually got the green light after it brought itself out of administration and from the brink of extinction. In Victoria, it was touch and go for the newly-named Eastern Pride (formerly Gippsland Falcons) and Carlton, who under the ownership of sports entrepreneur Peter Jess were banking on the sale of players to overseas clubs to finance their season.

Last season's minor premier and runner-up Perth Glory were considered among the title favorites. But they fell to the determined Knights in the elimination final.

According to the pundits, the final six would be Perth on top followed by Parramatta Power, Sydney Olympic, South Melbourne, Marconi Stallions and Wollongong Wolves.

Instead it finished South Melbourne, Wollongong, Perth, Olympic, Marconi and Melbourne Knights. The youthful Knights were the surprise packet.

Parramatta, which finished ninth, was a huge disappointment, as was Northern Spirit in third-last spot.

A remarkable fact was that Adelaide City Force failed to make the top six after more than a decade of continuous finals football. The Force had qualified for every finals series since 1990, winning the title in 1992 and 1994.

Before South Melbourne emerged as clear leader, top spot was as fiercely contested. Sydney Olympic made the early running, still ahead in round five and round eight. But in round nine South Melbourne struck a blow, beating Wollongong 4-2 at home to take top spot, with Perth, Olympic, Wollongong and Carlton following.



South Melbourne's Zeljko Susa (left) struggles with Wollongong Wolves' Sasho Petrovski. Both teams were easily the best in the NSL this season and accordingly played-out a befitting grand final.

The Blues were still in the competition but already in deep strife, crippled by debt, outstanding player payments and other outstanding costs.

Its matches were postponed, disrupting the competition. Players were not paid. The Australian Professional Footballer's Association (FPA) waded into the crisis, while owner Jess and his consultant Phil Cleary desperately negotiated with several syndicates to find a partner or to off-load the ailing club.

The FPA has bought into several disputes this season, from the Newcastle issue, when players also walked out, to the failures of Carlton and Pride.

The FPA and the NSL are negotiating a new "Collective Agreement" to ensure the career path of players as well as the via-



Stuart Munro: Watched helplessly as his club, Carlton declared bankruptcy and folded up.

bility of clubs and a reformed NSL. The current agreement expires on September 30.

By mid-December Carlton crashed out of the league. Potential investor and Melbourne millionaire Tony Schiavello had withdrawn his offer. There was no deal, no money and when star players Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson walked out, the club collapsed like a poorly stacked house of cards.

Players scattered far and wide. Andrew Marth, Lubo Lapsanky and Steve Horvat returned to the Knights. Young Daniel Vasilevski joined them. Mike Conroy joined Eastern Pride.

Simon Colosimo settled for South Melbourne and Thompson at Marconi. Andrew Packer signed with Sydney Olympic, Dean Anastasiadis went keeping goal for Wollongong. Con Anthopoulos found a home in Canberra, while

John Markovski finished up player-coach in the Victorian Premier League, naming a few.

All clubs were awarded a 3-0 victory over Carlton for all of the season, something which didn't please Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina, whose team had set the standard, beating the fire-brand Blues 3-0 in round 5. The league now had to cope with a bye for the rest of the competition.

By round 13, front runners South Melbourne and Wollongong had settled in first and second spots, with Perth and Sydney Olympic in third and fourth places. It was how eventually they would finish.

Interestingly, Perth and Olympic proved almost inseparable. After the 30 home-and-away rounds both sides were on 61 points and had a goal average of +40. Perth managed third because it had scored more goals (80) than Olympic (73).

By early April, Victoria's regional club and the league's bottom-side Eastern Pride, of Morwell, was sliding towards a fatal cash crisis. Players had not been paid for weeks and again the FPA intervened. Players walked out and Pride contested its round 26 match against Canberra Cosmos with its youth side, losing 7-1.

Continuing in the competition was no longer tenable. Its remaining matches were forfeited and opposition clubs, Wollongong, South Melbourne, Sydney United and Sydney Olympic, were awarded 3-0 victories. Pride was also stripped of all of its competition points (20) for having failed to pay its SA affiliation fees, finishing last.

When Soccer Australia recently released its rankings to determine which clubs will be part of next season's competition, Canberra Cosmos and Eastern Pride were absent from the list, since SA had deemed them not to be "going concerns".

SA is "committed" to reducing the league to 12 clubs next season and an announcement to that effect is expected shortly after the grand final after June 4. There were suggestions the league might remain at 14 clubs next season and be reduced to 12 clubs the following season.

Just when the finals got going, strife hit the first leg of the elimination final between the Melbourne Knights and Perth Glory at Knights Stadium. A group of hooligans set upon coach Bernd Stange and several Glory players shortly after the match. Striker Bobby Despotovski

was the main target of the assault. Australian born but of Serbian heritage, Despotovski was accused of angering Knights supporters, who are largely of Croatian background, with an offending three-fingered salute.

Soccer Australia investigated and brought down severe penalties. The Knights were fined \$30,000 and put on a \$50,000 good behavior bond for a year. Despotovski was fined \$2,000 and put on a six-match suspended sentence. The Knights must also improve security before they can hold matches at their home ground next season. The home match against Perth must be played outside metropolitan Melbourne.

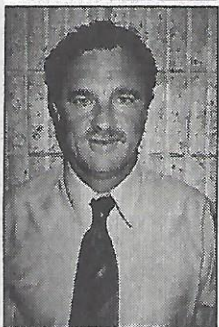
Earlier in the season, Despotovski has been given a community services sentence for alleged racist comments made against Knights defender Ransford Banini, while the Adelaide City crowd was accused of directing racist taunts at Canberra's Japanese player Hiroshi Miyazawa.

The incidents occurred after the NSL launched its slogan "Give Racism a Red Card" in round 9 as part of the federal government's "Living in Harmony" campaign.

Coaches also tumbled. Sydney United sacked Alan Hunter. Stalwart Velimir Kupresak took over but resigned late April after six weeks in charge, leaving Tony Pezzano as caretaker.

Tom Sermanni waved Canberra goodbye by round 19, handing his baton to Mike Milanovic. Graham Arnold hung up his boots and quit his coaching job at Northern Spirit last February to join Soccercoo coach Frank Farina as assistant coach. Mike Hickman took over as caretaker.

Continued next week



Graham Arnold: Left Northern Spirit to join the Soccercoo's bench.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

HOW many times have we heard from many vitriolic fans say, "He's too old and should not be on the park."

Well how many 'old' players of late have we seen perform miracles, still.

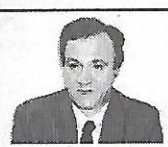
DO we want more. What about Italy's golden custodian, Dino Zoff, who at the age of 40, not only captained Italy, but won the World Cup (1982).

At 40 years of age, that is.

AND whilst we're looking between the uprights, what about another 'glovesman'.

An Englishman this time, called Peter Shilton.

Also at 40 years of age, he also played for England.



By John Economos

HAVE we already forgotten that little kid that came over to Australia and spanked us in 1988?

Does the name Romario ring a bell?

Well today he's 36 and still 'striking' heaps of goals for his club in the Brazilian first division.

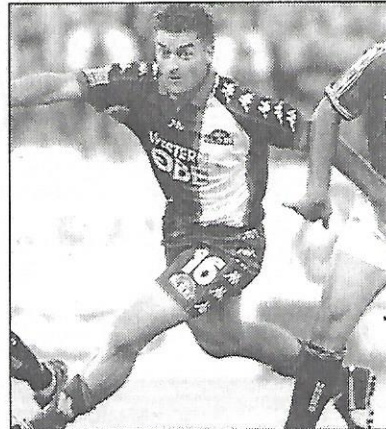
Just refuses to retire and has witnessed 36 Summers.

"There's only good and bad players. That's all. Nothing more, nothing less."

WITH the NATIONS CONFEDERATION CUP that is currently being played in Japan/Korea, FIFA's latest World ratings have Australia listed in 68th position, Mexico 13th, France No.1 and the South Koreans surprisingly slotted in 39th spot.

Last week before the Cup kicked-off, Mexico was thrashed 4-0 in Derby by England.

Mexico is currently defending the Confederation Cup, having won it in



Damian Mori: Four-time winner of the League's topscorer award.



Dunga: Brazil's magnificent ex-Captain.

Brazil's magnificent 35 year old midfield general and captain, Dunga.

GARY McALLISTER, Liverpool's sensational 36 year old left midfielder who started in the second half in the last England F.A. Cup Final, not to mention the fabulous 117 minutes he played days later in Dortmund, (Germany), in the UEFA Cup Final, is another example.



Dino Zoff: Italian World Cup heroic custodian.

Peter Shilton: England's great goalkeeper.

Sure, that's goalkeepers, you'll say.

Let's drift down to the other end of the pitch, then.

How about that 'grand old man', 35, at Manchester United, the one they call Teddy Sheringham.

It was none other than Sheringham who starred in the 1999 Euro Cup Final, coming off the bench to steal the Cup from the Germans' grip in the last few seconds.

And it was Sheringham again, who only last week at Derby, scored for England mind you.

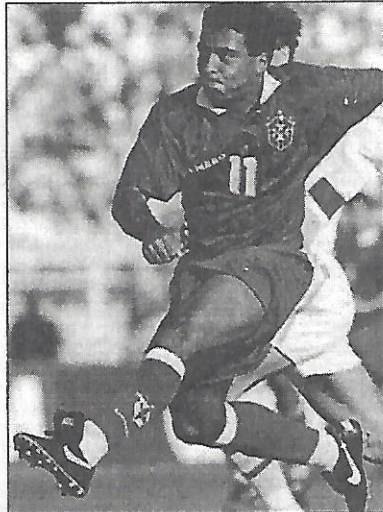
And it was against Mexico.

Remember this was the bloke that 'Spurs most stupidly turned away from White Hart Lane only two years ago.

Guess who now want him back?

In the words of Gary Cooper... "Yep."

The Spurs have now reopened the gates at White Hart for Lord Teddy to hopefully strut back inside to lace up again for next season.



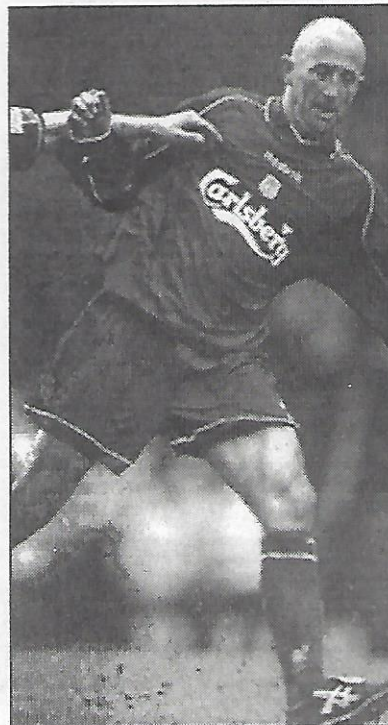
Romario: Brazil's former World Cup lethal marksman.

We could go on and on ... Sir Stanley Matthews .50.60.65..

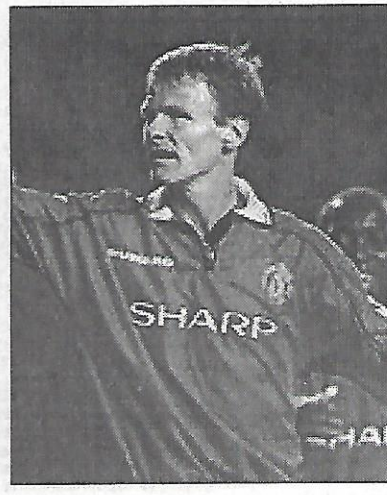
No...there is no such thing as 'an old player'.

In the wise words that a German great, (Dettmar Cramer), told me some 21 years ago:

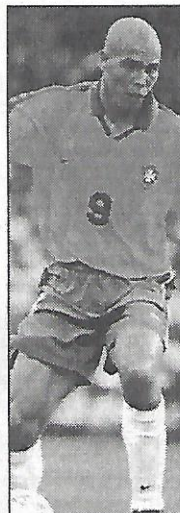
"There are no too old, or too young, players my friend, anywhere in the World.



Gary McAllister: Liverpool's great left midfielder.



Lord Teddy Sheringham: England and United great.



Ronaldo: Brazil's Super goal hero in the first Confederation Cup (1997) tournament.

Mexico City in front of a hysterical crowd of 110,000, crammed inside the giant Aztec Stadium on 4th July, 1999.

The Mexicans managed to hold on and edge out Brazil 4-3 on that night in the Final. This was the second

Confederation Cup staged. The first Confederation Cup was in 1997, held in Saudi Arabia.

In that 1997 Final, double hat-tricks by Brazil's dynamic mobile duo, Romario and Ronaldo, saw Australia totally annihilated by 6-0.

Only Australia's great goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich was able to walk off the pitch with his reputation intact, despite the half dozen goals.

Bosnich in the first round kept Brazil scoreless that enabled Australia to pull off a miraculous, (if not unbelievable), 0-0 draw against the World's giants of Soccer.

DAMIAN MORI, the Perth Glory's incredible and consistently deadly 'goal-scoring machine', this Saturday evening at the NSL Awards Night, will for the FOURTH time hoist the trophy he will receive for ending this season as the League's 'Top Goalscorer'.

Now at the age of 30, the devastating Damian has now amazingly captured this prestigious trophy a fourth time in the past nine consecutive League seasons.

2000. Damian Mori (Adelaide City), 22 goals.

2001. Damian Mori (Perth Glory), 19 goals.

1999. Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic) and Mile Sterjovski (Sydney United) 18 goals each.

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1993. Francis Awaritefe (South Melb), 19 goals.

Previous trophy winners in the past eight years, have been:

Quite a 'reasonable' effort for a bloke who kicked off his NSL career as a full-back with Victorian side, Sunshine George Cross in the mid 80s.

Mori's unusual powerful centre of gravity balance, enables him to easily bump off defenders with great ease.

This magnificent, marvellous, marksman, will again lace up next season for the Glory.

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'Olympic's Youth Team Crush Malaysian Armed Forces'

By John Economos
(in Kuala Lumpur)

Sidney Olympic's Youth team currently touring Malaysia, last Saturday night most convincingly defeated Malaysia's Armed Forces by 1-4 played at Kuala Lumpur's Police Academy ground, greatly inspired by a hat-trick scored by powerful make-shift striker, Morgan Cawley.

Olympic put in a five star team performance, but special mention must be made that 'Man Of The Match' was giant striker Morgan Cawley. The 19-year-old Cawley, signed by Olympic just three months ago from Brisbane, not only was able to nail in a glorious hat-trick of goals, but due to the fact that he's normally a midfielder, plus his industrious work-rate with defensive duties, was well over and above the duty of call.



A cyclonic start by Olympic saw Cawley score as early as in the third minute when midfielder Sasha Tirovski fed the big galloping marksman. From the right Cawley blasted a low drive that rocketed into the bottom far corner of the target.

A lapse in concentration by Olympic's midfield 17 minutes later, allowed a Malaysian midfielder to burst through, spray it wide and keeping coming through for the return ball to hammer past the totally exposed Olympic goalie, Glen Moss.

But two minutes later, Cawley clawed back Olympic's lead.

Dynamic linkman Zenon Caravella engineered the ball on the left flank to set up Cawley who darted into the box and intelligently side-footed the ball past the advancing Malaysian goalie.

Olympic could have added another three goals before 'drinks' but the Armed Forces' elastic

goalie did a marvellous job to keep Olympic's score down to just two goals.

Three minutes into the second session, Olympic stretched their lead to 1-3 as Cawley completed his wonderful hat-trick. A well-taken free-kick by left wingback Lee Miot radared towards a climbing Cawley who powered a bullet header that crashed into the target.

It seemed as if Cawley's third goal ignited the electrical storm that suddenly crackled across the Malaysian skies. Heavy rain began to pelt down onto the pitch but the rain failed to dampen the young Olympic side's enthusiasm to play fast football.

The pony-tailed right wingback Jimmy Nicolaou in the 65th minute was for the second time in the match unlucky as he again rocked the upright with a low drive.

Two minutes later, midfielder Sasha Tirovski slammed in Olympic's fourth and final goal that more than galvanised his team's victory.

Olympic's midfielder quintet of Dimitri Nicolaou, Saha Tirovski, George Bouzannis and Lee Miot, braced by their highly visionary 'linkman' Zeno Caravella, were very quick in shutting down the



Morgan Cawley: Heroic exhibition with a sensational hat-trick.

extremely skilled and mobile Malaysians.

The young Australians within minutes released that if they allowed the Malaysians even a metre of space, they would prove deadly. Olympic's back-three of Peter and Stevie Biviano with captain Andrew Durante were rock-solid, whilst Olympic's peroxide-haired goalie, Glen Moss hardly

was called into action.

Despite having nothing to do, Moss showed his magnificence nine minutes from the end. The Armed Forces finally broke through Olympic's tight defence and a cross whipped in from the right to the back post found an unmarked Malaysian who blasted well on target from point-blank range.

But with lightning reflexes, the Olympic 18-year-old custodian from Cairns, was fully stretched to pull off an absolutely sensational save.

A most strange incident occurred in the 22nd minute of the match when the referee stopped the game for two minutes for what at first appeared to be for no reason whatsoever. Luckily coach Michael Urukalo who has had extensive experience in Malaysian Sport, instantly realised what was on and called his players to stand still.

The halting of play was to do with what is termed as 'the Calling Of Prayer', a religious obligation as a sign of respect which demands that all sporting activities, no matter which sport, must halt for two minutes of respect every night, seven nights a week at exactly 8.22pm according to Muslim reli-

gion.

Sensing he had full control of the match by now, Urukalo wisely released all of his five substitutes to come off the bench and jump into action over the last 36 minutes.

Later Urukalo reflected: "I was pleased not so much by the win, but by the discipline, unity and co-ordination of the team which was exposed to foreign factors to my young players, factors such as heat, very heavy rain and mobile unknown opponents. It's a good start but we still have a hard job ahead of us in the remaining matches."

Olympic's U20s Line-up vs Armed Forces: Moss, P. Biviano, S. Biviano, Durante (Bandouvakis 84), Nicolaou, Tirovski, Skanavis 77), Bouzannis (Vaganas 72), Miot, Caravella (Moustakas 81), Sarmonikis (Haliti 54), Cawley.
Scorers: Armed Forces 1: 20th minute. Olympic Youth 4: Cawley 3, 22 and 4, Tirovski 67.
Yellow Card: Caravella 79.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

Alagich, latest Aussie to storm WUSA

Matildas defender Dianne Alagich was unexpectedly rushed off to the US at short notice last Wednesday morning to join the Bay Area CyberRays in the WUSA professional league.

The 22-year-old is the second Australian player to join the WUSA ranks, and reunites with Matildas and Olympic Games teammate Julie Murray at the very same club.

South Australian Alagich received the phone call at two o'clock Wednesday morning with the thrilling news, and had just a couple of hours to get organised and packed once out of bed before rushing to the airport for a 9am flight. Not that she could get any sleep after the phone call.

The CyberRays had started moves a week previous, five matches into this the inaugural season, to shore up their defence, and called upon Danish captain Lene Terp. In order to accommodate a new overseas signing, the club had first been forced to release Canadian midfielder Amy Walsh to stay within the four foreign player limit. But continuing delays in



Dianne Alagich (left) now the latest Australian to star in the lucrative WUSA League in United States.

securing Terp's visa and the reluctance of the Danish federation to lose their captain at this stage meant Terp would not become available to the club until July after the European Championships.

Terp's demise was to become

Alagich's big break, the Aussie consequently called upon at the expense of the Dane. After being placed on standby just three days before, Alagich was shocked that it had all come through in her favour.

"I'm just stoked, and can't

believe it's all happening," she said briefly from the airport upon arrival in Sydney to secure her visa. "I don't think it will really sink in till I'm there and training and meet all the players."

Alagich had given up hope of

the pro-league for 2001. After the Olympics, unable to afford a trip to the US for trials, she set about sending email communications to the clubs and coaches, but received no positive replies. She since contemplated playing college soccer or the current W1 League season.

Alagich had no idea her fortunes would change mid-season of all things, yet whilst on standby, couldn't allow herself to get too carried away with the prospect.

"I did get excited but I also expected the worst case scenario. I prepared myself and told my employer I could be gone in a few days time and gathered together a few things, but I thought it probably won't happen."

An unexpected delay with Alagich's visa in Sydney produced a few anxious moments, but thankfully she was safely on the international flight 24 hours later.

The full Aussie contingent now grows to three at the CyberRays, Assistant Coach Tom Sermanni a former National Coach of the Matildas and the one who first selected Alagich for the National Team at

age sixteen in mid-1995 for the US Women's Cup.

It's a deserved reward for the young Alagich who bit the bullet and took huge risks in her attempt to break back into the National Team, going on to become one of Australia's best at both the 1999 World Cup and the Olympic Games.

A knee reconstruction in 1996 set back her budding international career, but in essence only served to make her more



Sarah Cooper: Bagged a coaching job in USA.

determined when she missed selection for the first two AIS Scholarship intakes in 1998 and 1999. With no financial support, she left her Adelaide home and headed for Canberra at age nineteen. Upon arrival, she was fortunate to find accommodation

and part-time work at nearby Canberra Motor Village.

With everything so rushed, Alagich left the country with no information about where she will live or other off-field details. "I've been told nothing, but I don't care - I just want to get on the plane. I don't care if I have to live in a caravan park again!"

Since the highs of the Olympics, Alagich has found herself back home playing in the South Australian women's second division competition and the occasional match with SASI. Although she has been training with a men's U23 Premier League team, authorities ruled that women are not allowed to play in men's competition.

Meanwhile Alagich kept up to date with the WUSA league via the internet every couple of days, "mainly following Muzza's (Julie Murray's) team to see how she was going".

Now Alagich will be living out her own dream alongside Murray and such legendary names as Brazilians Sissi and Katia, and American World Cup and Olympic gold medalists Brandi Chastain and Tisha Venturini.

Sydney Olympic's Youth Squad In Malaysia

By John Economos
(in Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia)

Sydney Olympic's Youth squad flew out of Sydney last Thursday afternoon for a ten day tour of Malaysia to play four friendly matches set up by Olympic's Youth coach, Michael Urukalo.

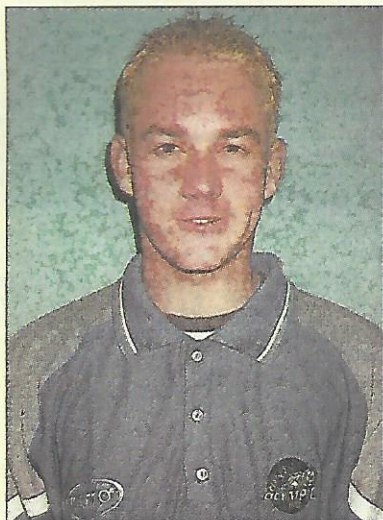
The Youth squad flew out with Malaysian Air Services on their tour that was packaged by Mega Travel of Liverpool, Sydney.

Urukalo is a well known figure here in Malaysia, having coached two Malaysian club sides, Johor F.A. and Perak back in 1992 and 1993.

Olympic's first game on tour was against the Malaysian Armed Forces last Saturday in Kuala Lumpur, while the second match scheduled for yesterday (Monday), against the Johor F.A. team in Johor



Back Row (L to R): P. Moustakas, G. Pizanis, M. Cawley, (Captain) A. Durante, L. Panecassio, G. Moss, P. Bivano, S. Biviano, A. Samonikas, S. Tirovski. Seated (L to R): N. Vaganas, L. Haiti, D. Nicolou, C. Bouzani's (Team Manager), Michael M. Urukalo (Coach), G. Zorbas (Physiotherapist), Z. Caravella, P. Skanavis, B. Bandouvakis. Missing: (Inset) Lee Milot, First Grade Player.



Glen Moss: Dependable playmaker.

Bahru, has now been cancelled for inexplicable reason. However being so near, coach Urukalo allowed his squad to make a trip to Singapore to see that country as well, plus to do a shopping.

In the first game, Sydney Olympic U20s convincingly defeated Malaysia's Armed Forces by 1-4 played at Kuala Lumpur's Police Academy ground.

A hat-trick scored by powerful make-shift striker, Morgan Crawley ensured the outstanding result for the Sydney Olympic youngsters.

The Youth team's third game is tomorrow, (Wednesday, June 6th), against 'Malay Mail' back in Kuala Lumpur. The fourth and final match is this



Friday, (June 8th), also in K.L., against the Malaysia's

National Under 23s.

This match promises to easily be the toughest the young Olympic players will face.

"This tour has already created great interest over here," stated Olympic's coach, Urukalo, who won the 'double' (League and Malaysia Cup Final) with Johor F.A.

The Olympic Youth squad travelled with a 17-man squad, including two goalkeepers.

Captaining the squad is talented 19-year-old central marker, Andrew Durante.

Urukalo believes that a wonderful future awaits for his star 17-year-old 'linkman', Zeno Caravella, (Frank Farina's nephew).

"I wanted to use this Malaysian tour as a final analysis as to what players should finally remain with Sydney Olympic. I wanted to see how our players reacted under a totally different playing environment. So far on tour I've learned more about them and the players themselves have learned more about themselves.

"We will be facing some really tough opposition when we clash with the National Under 23s this Friday and I'll be looking at my players to produce something really special against this tough quality opponent.

"Failing to do this, such

players will be of no further use to Sydney Olympic," Urukalo explained.

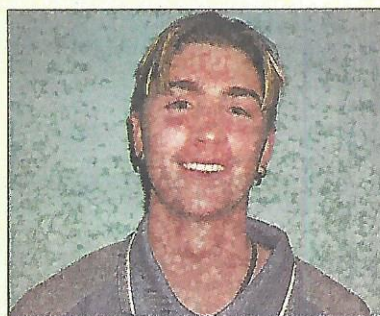
"The Youth League back in Australia is good to a certain level. But this tour of ours has really tested out the players. My job back in Australia is to produce players and not to try and just win championships.

"Coaches in my position have to be ruthless and cannot afford to be sentimental," Urukalo underlined.

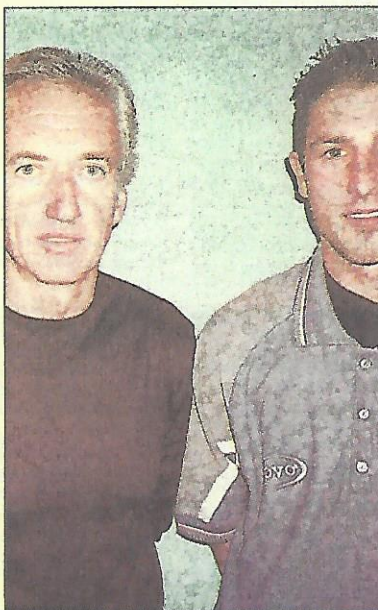
"As far as this tour is

concerned, here I must emphasise that we must be very thankful to the Assistant General Secretary of F.A.M., (F.A. of Malaysia), Mr. Dato Yap who was most valuable in assisting to blue-print this tour of ours," ended Urukalo.

Olympic's Youth squad returns to Sydney next Monday, June 11th Flight MAS 123 with E.T.A. at 6.30am.



Zeno Caravella: Brilliant midfielder and fulcrum of the team.



Michael Urukalo (left) coach of the team poses with team captain, Andrew Durante.



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Letters to the Editor

Stop the Grand Final farce

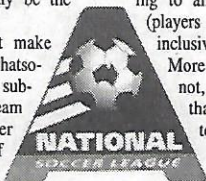
Dear Sir,
I honestly wish the Soccer Australia should henceforth stop this so-called grand final which it uses to determine the league champion at the end of every season. I think it is the most-unfair and disadvantaged method anywhere in the world.

Why can't the NSL simply stick to the choice of whichever team emerges tops at the end of the regular season? If a team goes through thirty gruelling games and finds itself at the top of the league ladder, common-sense demands that it should rightly be the champions.

It doesn't make any sense whatsoever to now subject such a team to another round of knockout games — churlishly called Top Six Series — before finally deciding the champions. What in heavens'sake, does SA want teams to prove after a 30-game season which is both physically and mentally draining to all the teams (players and coaches inclusive)?

More often than not, the team that emerged tops as minor league champions will lose out in the so-called top six series and eventually end up empty-handed. Quite unfair!

True, the top six series gives other lesser-placed teams a chance at the ultimate prize, but it also has inherent lapses which eventually proves that those chances are not really what they seem to be. Take the case of Sydney Olympic at the just-concluded series. They won the semifinal against Melbourne Knights, but due to the simple fact that they finished the regular season in fourth position, they were forced into a curious match-up called



No to Melbourne!

Dear Sir,
I think someone should tell Frank Farina that the Socceroos' World Cup qualifiers should be played in Sydney instead of Melbourne.

This is advisable because every time Australia plays in Melbourne they lose and whenever they play in Sydney they win. More significantly, Sydney has great stadiums like Sydney Football Stadium or the Olympic Stadium.

P. Robert, Maroubra, NSW



Wollongong players celebrating a recent fine outing. FIFA's cancellation of the world club tourney came as a rude shock to them.

FIFA'S CRUSHING BLOW

Dear Sir,
FIFA's decision to cancel the World Club Championship in Spain has caused irreparable damage to the code in Australia. It has made soccer now considered unreliable by other major sports in this country and placed the local champions Wollongong Wolves in financial disarray if not extinction. Also supporters like myself are in a position of losing deposits paid for the trip to Spain.

Not only the cost for travelling but this action by FIFA caused all sorts of inconvenience like working several months to prepare for the trip, arranging time off, phone calls, visits to travelling agency, etc. A refund to the fans (approximately 90 here) of \$2000 — would help to erase the hardship and a proper assistance to the qualified Soccer club — Wollongong Wolves — to compensate for their enormous preparation costs.

Please consider this submission and work towards promoting the code in our country. I would appreciate a reply. Thank you.

Otto Bader, Wollongong, NSW.

Petersen's bitter truth

Dear Sir,
South Melbourne coach Micky Petersen recently let fly in a newspaper interview on the sorry state of Victorian Soccer including criticism of his own club and its supporters.



Without being an expert on Victorian Soccer it would still appear M.P. is spot on with his comments. If only there were easy answers. As M.P. pointed out there is a significant mainstream market for soccer in Victoria but, connecting with it and harnessing it is the problem. Despite impressive advances in some areas in recent times Oz Soccer has no real history or tradition. Cricket, tennis have it in abundance. AFL has it in the Southern states, Rugby League and Union have it in NSW and Qld. Critics who disregard the importance of history and tradition in sport should look at tennis. Australia tennis is a mere shadow of the giant it once was on the world stage. Even though this has

been the case for many years Oz tennis is sustained by its rich history and tradition something no amount of money or marketing can buy. Basketball like Soccer in Oz has no real history or tradition even though it is a huge international sport. The NBL has pitched itself to a mainstream audience with very mixed results. The NSL is being maneuvered into the situation where they will have to follow suit. Unfortunately the chance that it will succeed in the long term is fifty-fifty at best. Never the less, do they have any real choice?

R. Melor, Bondi, NSW.

Lopsided Youth League coverage

Dear Sir,
I bought the 'Soccer Weekly' last week anticipating some great reading with the finals of the senior league approaching, in concert with the various youth leagues finals held over the weekend.

I look forward to reading more about youth soccer.

They deserve our support and most importantly deserve fair recognition for their efforts, courage and determination.

Ana Gelemanovic

I was disappointed to find that there were no details of the Southern Division Grand Final between Eastern Pride and Melbourne Knights, although there was a quite detailed article on the Marconi Youth Team.

The youth players from all divisions deserve equal recognition for their efforts and dedication to the world game of soccer.

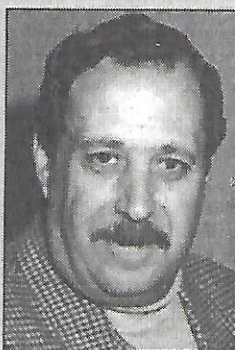
I do not think that it is appropriate or fair to publish reports from solely one division and ignore the other players in the competitions. This represents inequality and unfairness.

This is particularly important with the pending finals this weekend where morale can run high or low and a simple act of media recognition can add newfound confidence into our youth players.

It is the youth players that are the cornerstone of the future of Soccer both in Australia and in the interna-

Thanks
ABSW, but ...

Dear Sir,
I wish to thank you for the kind article that your paper printed on myself and my career at Club Marconi.



Frank Labozzetta

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

And several opponents of the Hindmarsh Stadium assistance package have perpetuated the myth that the stadium redevelopment costs blew-out from \$8 million to \$35 million.

No doubt, the Auditor-General's inquiry will finally reveal that the upgrading was planned in stages, starting at (naturally) Stage 1, which was priced at \$8 million and progressed from there.

Private investors, Con Makris, head of the Makris Group of companies, and Yasser Shahin, the Smokemart owner, expressed interest in buying the stadium, but the fact that the South Australian Soccer Federation has 36 years of its lease remaining at an annual fee of \$5000, would have been a deterrent to a lightning profit gain.

The loudest opponents of the money spent on Hindmarsh also failed to acknowledge that the Olympic football tournament returned a \$800,000, profit that will be injected into community projects.

More than 111,000 people attended the seven games over 11 days of the superb competition, with the quarter-final between the USA and Japan attracting a

stadium record of 18,345.

That record will not be eclipsed, unless temporary seating is erected, as was the case for the Olympics.

SASF general manager Tony Farrugia said he was delighted by the agreement reached by the Government and the Charles Sturt Council.

"The decision means that Hindmarsh Stadium has been secured as a soccer venue," said Farrugia, whose federation is guaranteed 30 games per year, plus finals, 15 NSL matches and international games.

"Our income was down a third after we lost one NSL team (Adelaide Sharks) and the rugby league team (Adelaide Rams)," he said.

"But, we can now concentrate on the core issues and get back to what we are here to do and that is to concentrate on promoting the game."

CITY NOW A PRIVATE FORCE

Privatise or perish! Do you remember that slogan? Well, when push came to shove, the Adelaide City Force members decided, with one exception, to abandon their community status in favour of becoming a private concern.

Forget, that it took two meetings for the decision to be reached, let's just say, it was a case of better late than never for the inevitable to happen.

The all-important motion put to the members by City president Bob D'Ottavi read, "For the members to vote and authorise to give the power to the Board, in order to keep the club afloat, to seek private financial investors for the purpose of - 1. Purchasing Ram Park. 2.

To retain all club's operation by providing cash flow and 3. Allow all investors to hold all titles and mortgage of the club's assets."

D'Ottavi told the meeting that the club would be conducted as a successful business, financial members and life governors would retain their present rights, except their right to vote.

The club would remain registered as Adelaide Juventus Social and Sports Club and would sponsor a team in the NSL, called Adelaide City. It would also con-

tinue to field teams in the SA Premier League and the Junior Colts.

DAD'S BIG DAY

Frank Day, father of Nathan Day, the former Adelaide City, Sharks and Sydney United striker, is to be honoured by his SA Amateur League club Salisbury International.

The club will hold a testimonial dinner for Day senior on Saturday night and on Sunday will play a celebratory match.

During a career that spanned four decades, Day racked up 302 games and scored 171 goals. He played in five championship-winning teams and represented SA five times.

Should be a sensational night and day because the amateurs have a professional approach towards celebratory occasions.

CUP REPEAT

West End Federation Cup holders Croydon Kings has drawn to meet reigning Premier League champions Blue Eagles in a cup semi-final on Monday, June 11.

WEST END CUP SEMI-FINALS

Monday, June 11

Hindmarsh Stadium

Noon:

Birkalla v Playford Patriots

2.30pm:

Croydon Kings v Blue Eagles

Under 23 Semi-finals

(Venues to be advised)

9.30am:

Modbury Jets v Birkalla

Noon:

Adelaide City v Croydon Kings

Under 19 Semi-finals

(Venues to be advised)

9.30am:

Port Lion v Salisbury Apaches

Noon:

Modbury Jets v Enfield Falcons



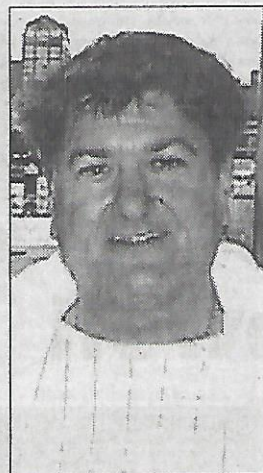
Nathan Day, whose ex-soccer playing dad is to be honoured by the Salisbury International soccer club.

The pair clashed last season when Croydon triumphed on the path towards recapturing the senior trophy and breaking a 25-year cup drought.

Red hot State League side Birkalla will clash with Playford Patriots in the first semi-final of the Hindmarsh Stadium double-header program.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the Marshall Thompson/Pacific Real Estate 5RPH Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am, along with Croydon Kings coach Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar, the Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Rob Popplestone.

Millar and Crisp return on Sundays from 8.30am-9.30am, in company with Playford Patriots midfielder Mark Brazzale and guests for the 5RPH (SOS) Soccer On Sunday program.



Con Makris: Attempted to buy Hindmarsh Stadium.

South Australia Premier League Results



ROUND 10

PREMIER LEAGUE

Campbelltown City	0	Adelaide City	4
		(Filewood, Saraceno, Fyfe, Thompson)	
Raiders	0	White City	3
		(Bernardino, McMillan, Armon)	
Croydon Kings	1	Metro Stars	1
		(Doy)	
Playford City	2	Modbury	1
		(Isaacsoh)	
Port Pirie City	0	Port Adelaide Lion	2
		(Terminello, Tsonis)	
Olympic FC	1	Adel. Blue Eagles	2
		(Sergi, Farrant)	

STATE LEAGUE

Hills Hawks	3	Western Strikers	2
Cumberland Foxes	2	Seaford Surfers	2
Panthers	0	Northern Demons	4
Para Hills Knights	2	Salisbury Apaches	1
Enfield Falcons	3	Cobras	0
Noarlunga Bulldogs	0	Birkalla	3

ROUND 11

PREMIER LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Blue Eagles v Adelaide City	
Port Lion Pirates v Olympic FC	
Modbury Jets v Port Pirie Spirit	
Metro Stars v Playford Patriots	
White City Woodville v Croydon Kings	
Campbelltown Red Devils v Raiders	

STATE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Birkalla v Western Strikers	
Cobras v Noarlunga Bulldogs	
Salisbury Apaches v Enfield Falcons	
Northern Demons v Para Hills Knights	
Seaford Surfers v Panthers	
Hills Hawks v Cumberland Foxes	

EAST TIMORESE RELISH MAIDEN SOCCER GLORY

By Graham Cooke

East Timor have won their first soccer tournament as an independent nation, under the guidance of former Canberra-based coach Ivan Cengic.

An under-19 team from the new-born nation won the Arafura Games competition in Darwin last week despite having players who only a few months earlier were refugees from a war zone.

The team beat the reigning Arafura champions, Macao, 3-1. Malaysia 2-0, Northern Territory 3-0 and drew 1-1 with Brunei on the way to the final and a 2-0 win over the hosts,

Northern Territory.

Cengic said the win was especially meritorious, as his squad had been weakened by injuries and suspensions.

"Most of them were playing in their first tournament," he said.

He now hopes to bring an under-14s team to the Kanga Cup junior competition, in Canberra next month.

Cengic played for Canberra Deakin in the ACT Premiership before taking charge of the newly formed O'Connor Knights in the State League.

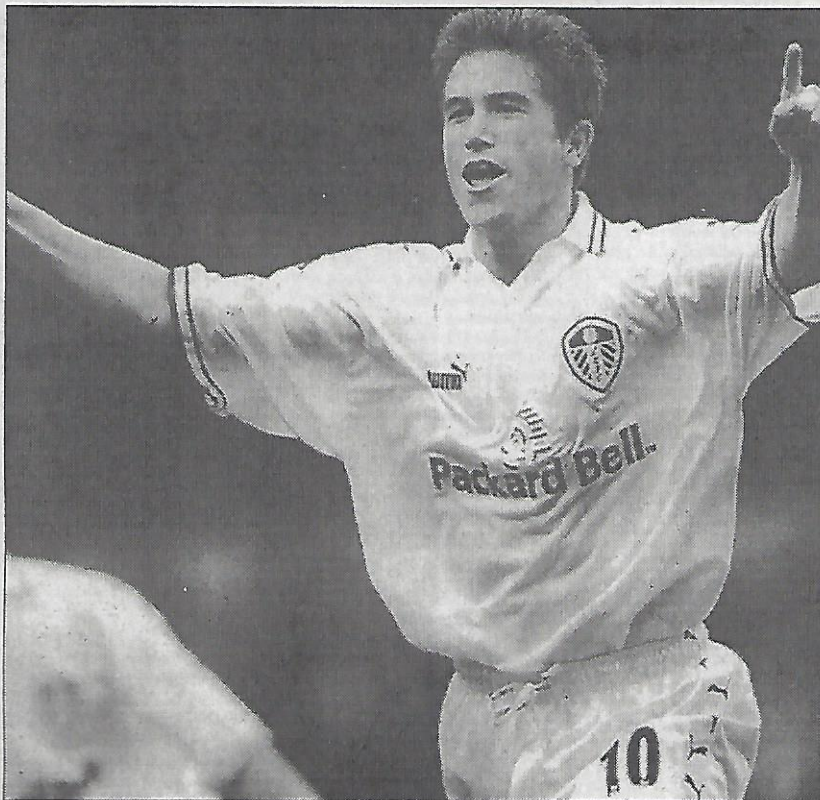
After finishing on top of the State League First Division by a healthy margin, the Knights applied for a Premiership place

in the 2000 competition, but this was awarded instead to Tuggeranong United who finished runners up on the table, but beat the Knights in the grand final.

Cengic then decided to do soccer development work in East Timor, which at that time had only ruined facilities and hardly any equipment.

An appeal to Canberra for assistance was answered with second-hand balls, uniforms, boots and other items collected at Cosmos home NSL games and sent on to East Timor by Soccer Canberra.

A few weeks ago Cengic was named the country's national coach.



Leeds' supremo and midfield, general, Harry Kewell overcame injury to spearhead the club's progress to the semi-final of the European Champions League.

I want to play for my country, says Kewell

It's been a strange season for Harry Kewell. The Australian forward started the season on the sidelines at Elland Road, but by the end he was playing in the semi-finals of the Champions League.

Kewell has also come under fire from fans back in Australia as his appearances for his country have been severely limited. He was even banned by FIFA at one point after Leeds pulled him out of the Australia squad that was due to play in a tournament involving Brazil.

The Australian FA failed to accept the explanation that Kewell was injured, and asked FIFA to place a ban on the player appearing for Leeds for the duration of the tournament.

We have had a lot of emails from Australian readers eager to see Kewell playing in the World Cup qualifiers for them, something that the player is determined to put right.

'I want to play for my country in the remaining qualifiers. I haven't played as much as I would have liked, but that's down to the amount of travelling involved. More than a full day's flying is involved just for me to get to Australia for a home international. That takes a lot out of you.'

'But it is very important for Australia to do well and reach the finals. We have as good a chance as anybody. We got a lot of stick for the 31-0 win over American Samoa, but it's not really our fault. We should be playing in a harder qualifying section, because there is very little serious competition for us in the Oceania section.'

A bad ankle injury ruled Kewell out of the side until December, and it was the first time the star had to face up to a

lengthy spell on the treatment table.

'It was very frustrating to be out of the side,' Kewell told Soccernet. 'It was the first time I had been injured and you do start to think "when am I going to get back on the pitch again".'

'But every young player has to go through this at some time. It's a learning experience and one that you have to take on board. I'm just hoping that I've had my time and won't have to spend so long out of the game again.'

'If you'd have told me six months ago that I would have played so many games this season I wouldn't have believed it. I was just glad to be back on the pitch really, to actually play in a Champions League semi-final was fantastic.'

When Kewell did come back into the Leeds side, things weren't going too well in the Premiership. The 22-year-old returned against Derby at the beginning of December with the club sitting in mid-table and struggling to get their League season going.

David O'Leary may have found success in Europe, but back on home soil it was a different story. 'I don't know why we could do it in the League,' said Kewell. 'A lot of teams have experienced this though, Arsenal for one. They are able to perform in one arena, but then can't get it going in the other. It was like that for us.'

'We were able to play teams like AC Milan and Barcelona and give them a game, but were not able to perform against teams like Bradford on a weekend. But it's all part of the learning experience for us. We did exceptionally well to get to the semi-finals of the competition, and we'll be better players for it.'

'We can take that experience and put it

to good use next season. But we were confident we could beat Valencia. You have to go into any game with a degree of confidence, otherwise you are never going to win.'

'But Valencia are a world class side, and they proved that in the second leg. Okay, so their first goal was more than a little suspect but we can't complain about the other two. They were the better side at the end of the day.'

The whole Leeds squad all got their heads shaved as a bonding exercise ahead of the Valencia game. It might not have worked, but it certainly helped to show the Leeds team as one.

'It wasn't anyone one player's idea to be honest,' Kewell said. 'We were all sat around having dinner and it came up in conversation. We then took a group decision to have our heads shaved and that's where it came from. It was just part of us being a team, really.'

'It was disappointing not to qualify for the Champions League again next season, but at least we are in the UEFA Cup. The Premiership is very important to us, but obviously we'd have liked to have been in the Champions League.'

'But now we have to give our best in the UEFA Cup and hopefully keep the trophy in England after Liverpool won it this season.'

Many Leeds fans thought their side had a great chance of challenging Manchester United for the title this season. As it turned out, Sir Alex Ferguson's men ran away with the Premiership yet again.

The bad start which the Elland Road club had ruined any chance of winning the League, but next season they will be hoping for a stronger campaign without the

distraction of the Champions League. They may still be in the UEFA Cup, but that competition is nowhere near as taxing as the Champions League.

Although there will still be a number of strong outfits in the UEFA Cup, along with those who drop down into the competition after the first phase of the Champions League, there are not as many games of the same calibre.

'Next season will be a totally different season to the one we've just seen,' Kewell continued. 'Manchester United won't run away with it like they did this season. Liverpool and ourselves have gained a lot of experience from our European exploits and we need to apply this in the Premiership.'

3 Manchester United won't run away with it like they did this season. Liverpool and ourselves have gained a lot of experience from our European exploits.

2 'Arsenal are always there or thereabouts and will be again, and I'm sure Chelsea will be a stronger unit as well. The teams that have come up will do well. Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers have experience of playing the Premiership in recent seasons.'

'Blackburn, of course, won the title not that long ago. Fulham have the resources to make sure they are not in any trouble as well. I wouldn't be surprised to see all three of them do well.'

The skillful winger-cum-striker has been with Leeds for five and a half years now since moving to England from New South Wales Soccer Academy - when he was already a full international at the age of 17. With almost 175 games behind him and 36 goals, Kewell has a great future ahead of him... but will that be at Leeds?

'I've always said that I want the experience of playing in different countries, it's something I want to do. You have to look to improve your game and by playing in different leagues you can do that. But when I will move on, I don't know.'

'I've got another four years left on my contract at Leeds and I have no thoughts of leaving Elland Road at the moment. I have no aspirations to play for any particular team, we'll just have to see what happens in the future.'

'I'd say that by far the best player I've played with is David Batty. He really is excellent. As for players I've played against, I don't think I could really name any one player. I just try to concentrate on my own game and do my best for the team and not worry about what the players on the other side are doing.'

Harry Kewell posts his vote at the Disney Kids Awards

Kewell has this week been attending the Disney Kids Awards. He is a supporter of the

Awards, and was himself nominated by a kids' council for the Footballer of the Year

Award. The Grand Theatre in Leeds was besieged by young fans as he attending a

function recently.

With the season over, Kewell can now sit back and prepare for a pre-season free from

injury. 'Summer is the time that I finally get to relax,' Kewell added. 'I try to keep completely away from the game before I go back to my club, to give myself a real break.'

Just how much of a rest Kewell will get

though is another matter. He and his girlfriend Sheree Murphy - star of ITV soap

Emmerdale - had their first child earlier

this month and no doubt there will be more

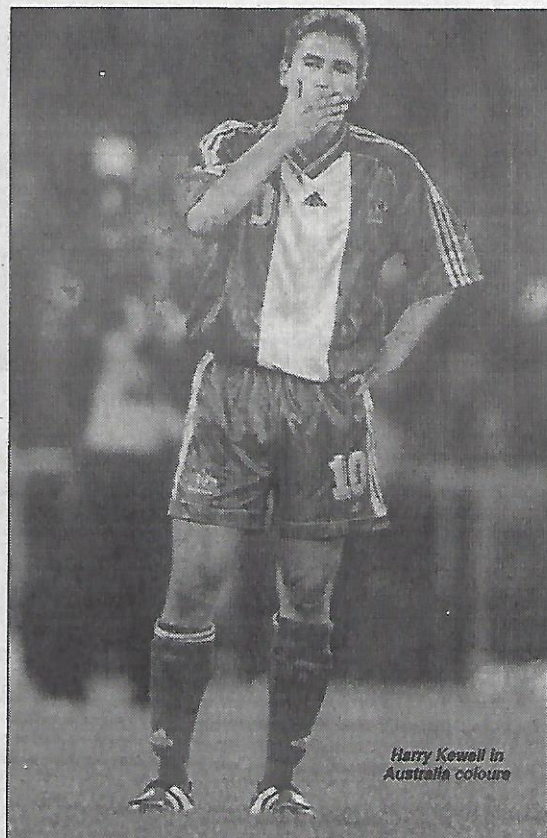
than a few sleepless nights ahead.

England fans will now be hoping the

baby boy turns out to be as skillful as his

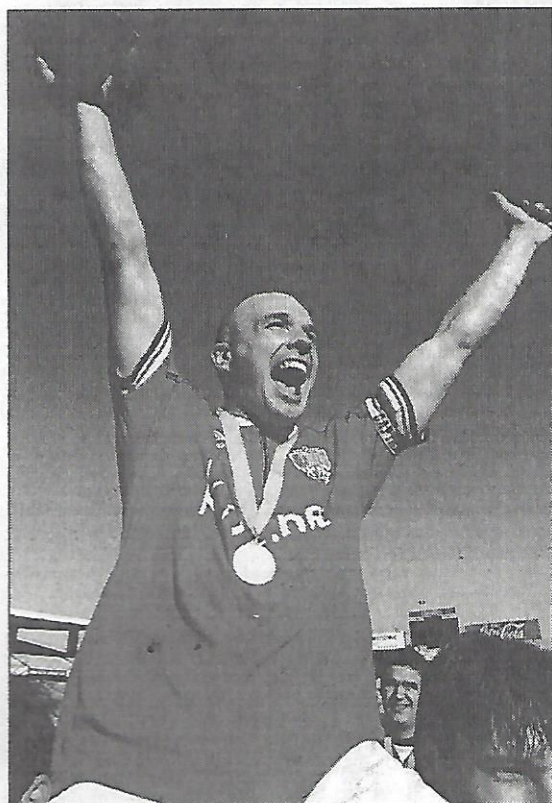
father is - but opts to represent the country

of his birth.



Harry Kewell in Australia colours

The NSL Grand Final



Matthew Horsley captain of the Wollongong Wolves celebrates his team's victory in the NSL Final between the Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne held at the Parramatta Stadium, on Sunday.

cheered their somewhat-subdued colleagues from Melbourne, occupying the opposite terrace.

At halftime, players and officials of the Melbourne Knights youth team, who had 24 hours earlier upstaged Marconi Stallions to lift the National Youth League trophy, paraded their silverware around the stadium. Rather than inspiring their senior colleagues from Victoria, the parade, instead, ignited the Wolves.

Decked in a sea of red, the Wolves supporters were duly-rewarded on resumption of the second half. Robert Middleby, who had troubled South defenders Simon Colosimo and Iosifidis all through the first period, managed to escape their close attention. He redirected a blocked pass into the path of Paul Reid, whose shot flashed across the South goal-mouth. Out of the blues, the hitherto-quiet Sasho Petrovski appeared to slide home the opening goal in the 56th minute.

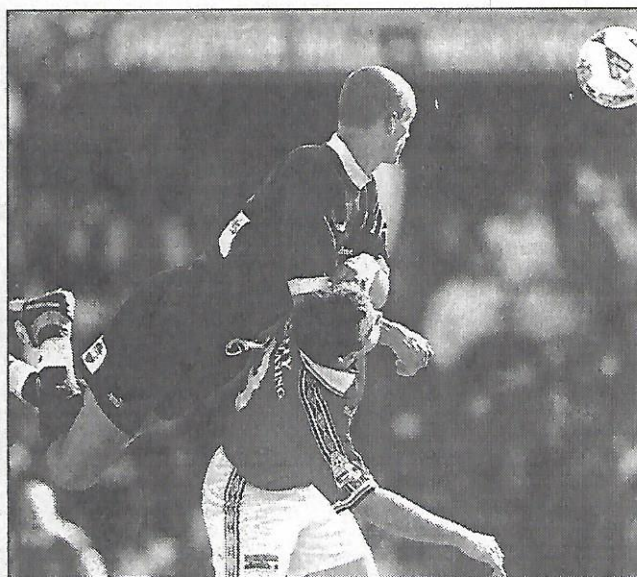
The rapturous cheer that greeted the opener was still swirling round on a high octave as South attempted to fight straight back. It was not to be as their hasty movement only succeeded in leaving them open for a counter attack just two minutes later.

Stuart Young and Horsley, the heart and soul of Wolves' midfield stole the ball and worked it quickly down the right wing. Horsley's low, precise cross was left untouched by Petrovski, leaving Young to slam home a left foot rocket,

which kissed the bottom right hand corner of Petkovic's under-siege goal before spinning into the net.

South were shell-shocked. The Wolves were flying. Their fans went wild.

The sight of South's petite striker, Vas Kalogeracos clutching his shaven-head typified the obvious fact that the 1999 champions never bargained for the swift and



Vas Kalogeracos (top) of South Melbourne flies over Alvin Ceccoli of the Wolves during the NSL Final between the Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne held at the Parramatta Stadium.

sudden collapse that was unfolding.

Left with little choice, Mikey Petersen, Souths' coach brought on Goran Lozanowski for the ineffective Kalogeracos. Soon after, half-fit captain Paul Trimboli and veteran John Anastasiadis were all thrown into the fray to stem the onslaught of the Wolves and try to turn the tide threatening to go out of control.

Stung by the goals, South was desperate for a way back but some inspired goalkeeping from ex-player, Dean Anastasiadis, denied them any dividend for all their desperate attacking. Minutes after Young's goal, Anastasiadis' finger-tip save off a Steve Panopoulos strike from the edge of the area, ensured the scoreline stayed the same.

A couple of minutes after that, a neat flick from hardworking Vaughan Coveny had fleetfooted Andy Vlahos swooping down on goal, but his weak shot drew a brilliant save from

Anastasiadis after the ball had appeared destined for the net. If it had gone in, so soon after Young's goal, it would have been a rude shock to the Wolves and definitely affected the outcome of the game.

The presence of Trimboli added extra attack options upfront, while Lozanowski providing more strength to the misfiring South attack.

South failed to break through for the decisive equaliser in the dying minutes after super-sub John Anastasiadis breathed life into the match with South's only goal ten minutes from time.

Veteran David Cervinski was however a power in the centre of defence for Wollongong as he limited Vlahos and Vaughan Coveny, to only a handful of chances.

South's free-kick specialist, Con Boutsianis saw a piledriver turned away by Anastasiadis' heroics as his 74th minute free kick almost sneaked into the top right corner. Four minutes later, John decoded the secrets of his brother's goalkeeping prowess by notching Souths' lone goal. With twelve long minutes left on the clock, the feeling grew that perhaps, an equaliser and possibly extratime might be needed to settle the affair.

But the Wolves defence held firm, complimenting the best attack in the country to ensure more celebrations for the sports-mad city of Wollongong.

The final whistle was greeted by a rousing cheer from the Wolves fans among the 13,402 strong crowd. They might not have had their wish of staging the grand final at the WIN Stadium but that did not stop the good-natured celebrations that trailed the victory of what is now easily the most-prolific attacking team in the history of the NSL.

Wolves skipper Matt Horsley fittingly won the Man-of-the-Match award in what was his last match for the team. He was a dominant force on the right wing with the majority of Wollongong's attack, relying on his strength and creativity on the ball.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

By Emma Nwaneri

Super-sub, John Anastasiadis scored against his brother, Dean, in Sunday's Grand Final with 12 minutes left on the clock, but it was too little, too late to stop high-flying Wollongong Wolves clinching a second back-to-back National Soccer League title.

John rose above the Wollongong defence to plant a header into the bottom corner in the 78th minute, though it was the Wolves who ultimately prevailed 2-1 over minor premiers South Melbourne in the grand final at Parramatta Stadium.

Two minutes of magic from strikers Sasho Petrovski and Stuart Young early in the second half proved the difference against a South Melbourne team that has never lost a grand final, until Sunday.

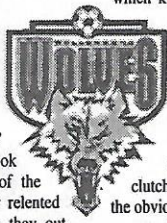
Starting 13 minutes behind its advertised noon kick-off, the match rolled-off with Wollongong springing into outright attack and were unlucky not to have jumped ahead immediately. Wolves' striker Stuart Young guided a free-header onto the post of South's goalie, Michael Petkovic in only the third minute from five yards out.

Stung by the narrow escape, South rose to the occasion but failed to break down the Wollongong defence. It was instead the Wolves who once again almost went ahead in the 40th minute. Defender, David Cervinski struck a fierce shot at South's crowded goal-mouth off a Matt Horsley corner, but Petkovic somehow kept it out with a

brilliant save.

Before then, spirited running as well as the pace of Young, Paul Reid and Horsley had forced a harassed Steve Iosifidis into being booked.

In the stands, the Wolves' vibrant supporters, who took over the entire east wing of the Parramatta stadium, never relented throughout the first half as they out-



David Cervinski of the Wolves celebrates their victory over South Melbourne at the Parramatta Stadium. Wollongong won the match 2-1.

Tears flow in Melbourne as defeat hits hard

By Bert van Bedaf, who watched the grand final at South Melbourne's social club at Bob Jane Stadium.

She wore a South Melbourne strip and scarf and lived every agonising moment of South's heart-breaking 2-1 grand final loss to Wollongong last Sunday.

She jumped at every chance, berated every poor pass and every missed opportunity. She was one of the 500-odd fans who packed into the social club, wanting to witness South win a record fifth national title.

The t-shirts hung ready for sale at the Pro-Shop. When, at the final whistle, the Wolves were the winners and South were the vanquished, she cried. Her eyes were red, the color of the opposition.

The large room emptied

quickly. Nobody dug into their pockets to buy a commemorative t-shirt. Everybody wanted to forget. Joy and sorrow. They are the stuff of dreams and nightmares, of victory — and defeat, which proved a bitter taste at Bob Jane.

The day began early because of the noon kick-off. By 11.30 the room started to fill. The tables and chairs in front of the large television screen (some of them reserved) were quickly occupied. There was a brisk trade in drinks, hotdogs and chips.

If there was an apprehensive mood in anticipation of the showdown, most fans managed to hide their anxieties well. They sat down and chatted. It looked like they were settling down for any old game. It was a calm before a cataclysm.

A young couple kissed and cuddled while the Footy Panel on Channel Seven

droned on. A young man



DASHED HOPES ... Paul Trimboli, South Melbourne's mercurial captain eyeing the NSL trophy at the media conference preceeding the 1-2 loss to Wollongong.

had draped himself in a South Melbourne flag. He seemed confident, but ended kicking his chair and storming off when Stuart Young struck the second goal behind Michael Petkovic.

By kick-off the bar area was packed. All chairs in front of the screen also were taken. The young mob placed their chairs near the screen, sharing cigarettes and space with mates and girlfriends.

South's first attempt on goal, a shot by Steve Panopoulos after three minutes, met with loud cheers. The (by now) tense crowd groaned when alarmingly Young hit the South post with a header a minute later.

The Wolves dominated and the fans didn't like it. A Con

Boutsianis free-kick was keenly anticipated, but nothing came of it and early frustration showed on several faces.

South moved forward. "That's it. Come on!", someone loudly urged the Blues on. But they lost possession. "Jesus", a woman said.

"Why do they keep giving it to the red guys?", another asked with acid irony.

"Because they're color blind," her partner replied in half-jest.

After 25 minutes, a fast-running Boutsianis seemed fouled in the box.

The mob rose, baying for a penalty. But nothing was forthcoming.

Steve Iosifidis received a yellow card for a late tackle

and the crowd expressed its derision, living every moment of the tight tussle. Wollongong forced three corners in a row as South stood at the barricades with its defences reeling.

But no goal was scored in the first half and both sides went into the interval searching for the vital break, while the social club crowd hit the bar, the roast lamb and hot chips.

A change is needed and Seven's ground commentator Andy Harper asks South assistant coach Jeff Olver when substitutions will be made. "We don't want to show our hand too early," Olver says. But South's hand was forced.

Saso Petrovski got the last touch in the 57th minute and

hits the net for 1-0. The overwrought room at Bob Jane is shrouded in silence. Then someone bashes the top of a table. A few expletives fly through the air.

The young man in the South shirt stomps away and has a smoke outside.

He's hardly back or Young smashes goal number two past Petkovic after Robbie Middleby cleverly dummies the South defence. The room's full of despair. The young man in the South shirt kicks his chair.

South coach Mike Petersen rings in the changes after 65 minutes. Vas Kalogeracos leaves the pitch for Goran Lozanovski. Zeljko Susa makes way for benched captain Paul Trimboli.

The crowd cheers for "Loza" and Trimmers". There's renewed hope on desperate faces. But coming back from two goals down seems an impossible task.

"The season is ebbing away for South like the sands of time," Seven match commentator Greg Blake chimes out out-of-character.

Petersen plays his third and last card in the 71st minute. Iosifidis is taken out of South's wobbly defence and retiring veteran John Anastasiadis is marshalled into attack. There are more loud cheers.

The move pays off. In the 78th minute South's mercurial supersub halves Wollongong's lead with a

towering header. The crowd roars in elation.

There's 15 minutes left (including stoppage time) to get an equaliser.

Boutsianis earns another free-kick. "Boutsi, Boutsi, Boutsi," the chant goes up. But "Boutsi's" shot is headed away.

The call of "Hellas, Hellas, Hellas" is in full cry when Andy Vlahos takes a corner in the 83 minute.

Wollongong 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis thwarts another attempt by his brother John and the room displays raw despair. Vlahos fails to equalise from point-blank range and time is running out rapidly after 85 minutes.

"Come on, hurry up," someone shouts.

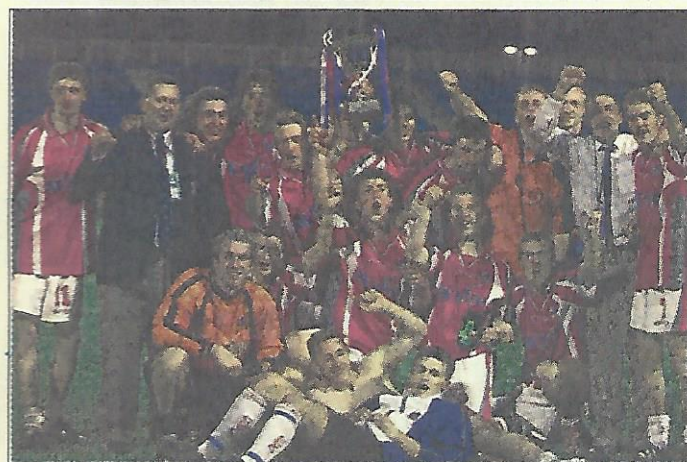
There are a few more half chances, but the game appears lost. The young man walks off again when the final whistle goes.

Another man kicks his chair in utter frustration. People pour out of the room quicker than they arrived. Within minutes the mob's gone. Some stunned fans remain, staring into space in disbelief. Others turn to the bar to drown their sorrows.

Outside, few linger in the carpark for post-match discussions. "Two stupid mistakes cost us the game," one says.

It was more than just a game. It was a gallingly disappointing end to a minor premiership season.

National Youth League



Players and officials of victorious Melbourne Knights' youth team celebrating their grand final win over Marconi Stallions.

Knights Capture National Youth League Title

By Mark Savoulakis

The Melbourne Knights were crowned National Youth League champions after defeating Northern Conference winners, Marconi, 3-2 in a thrilling game of football.

Having the home ground advantage at Marconi Stadium, the Stallions started off brightly with an array of long-range efforts, which saw Knights custodian, Martin John tested early on.

It was the Stallions who struck first blood in the 24th minute, when Grant Last scored a lucky

goal that deflected off a Knights player. Last had crossed the ball from the right hand side of the box, which saw it deflect past a Knights player, that gave Keeper John no chance.

Marconi outplayed the Knights for the majority of the first half, and with two minutes remaining,

the Stallions struck again through former AIS graduate, Todd Brodie. Marconi 'live wire' Eric Anabalon delivered a perfect cross to Brodie, which he brought down brilliantly with his chest and hammered it home for his sides second of the match.

The Stallions had won the first half admirably, but it was to be a different scenario in the second.

Sixty-one minutes into the second half, the Melbourne Knights scored a vital goal, which gave them a slim chance of winning the match. It was a well-taken corner, which met an advancing Ivan Klarica who headed home his side's first goal.

Things seemed to go from bad to worse for the Stallions as in the 71st minute, Aaron Bennett was given his marching orders as he received a second yellow card for a malicious challenge. It was to be Marconi's second red card in two weeks, as previously in the Northern Conference final, Captain Saso Trajceviski was red carded for an off the ball incident.

With a man down, the Stallions had to battle courageously in defence to keep the score-line in

their favour.

This was not to be, as the Knights scored an equalizing goal in the 79th minute through Adam Petko. Reminiscent of the first Knights goal, a well-taken corner directed towards the far post was headed brilliantly down by Petko who put the Knights back into the match.

The Full-Time whistle blew, and the match ended at two a piece, this meant that two fifteen-minute halves were to be played with the dreaded Golden Goal rule.

The start of the second half in extra time saw both sides coming out strong, but yet again, the Knights had more of the ball.

The game of football however twists in many strange ways, and it did just that at the Marconi Stadium. After trailing two goals to nil in the first half, the Knights miraculously scored two goals in the second to keep their hopes alive for the

Championship.

In the 108th minute, fate struck for the Knights as what appeared to be a long rang effort by a Knights player, was totally misjudged by Marconi 'keeper Daniel Schwarzer, who tried to parry it with his fingertips.

The ball unfortunately fell to Xhezair Sulemani, who scored the easiest of tap-ins to give the Knights the National Youth League Championship.

Under extraordinary pressure, the Knights battled their way through and with sheer determination took out the National Youth League Final. Marconi did well to battle through the match with a player down, but unfortunately the bubble burst for the Stallions, as the Knights reigned supreme as Australia's best Youth side.

The Team Lineups:

Melbourne Knights:
Martin John (gk), Daniel Piorowski, Ivan Klarica, Ivan Gelemanovic, Tomislav Muretic (Antoni Jankovski 69), Adam Petko, Jasmin Sehic (Benjamin Cogger 55), Xhezair Sulemani, Tomislav Razov (Robert Carmignani 100), Anthony Pelikan, Daniel Rocco.

Marconi Stallions: Daniel Schwarzer (gk), Todd Brodie, Anthony Hartshorn, Ryan Manente, Francesco De Roit, Anthony Mondello (Luke Flynn 79), Grant Last, Erick Anabalon, Aaron Bennett, Josia Sauturaga Junior (Allan Lo Porto 100), Michael Beauchamp.

Australia at Confederations Cup ... Australia at Confederations Cup

SOCEROOS' FINEST MOMENT

AUSTRALIA	1
FRANCE	0

Unheralded Soccerroos of Australia turned soccer logic on its head when it recorded one of its biggest wins in its history — and in the process clinched up one of world soccer's biggest upsets — beating France at the Confederations Cup, in Korea.

Even Australia's coach, Frank Farina was perplexed by the result, confessing it was way beyond his best dreams.

"No, not at all. I never thought we could beat them. It was one of those situations where I honestly thought it would come down to the last game against Korea. I thought

when we came into the tournament, we'd try to get a result against Mexico, we weren't counting on anything from the game against France, then try to get a result against Korea."

"So no, we weren't really expecting anything from this game — the confidence was there, but you can never go in against the World and European champions and be confident you're going to win, that's the reality of it."

Striker Clayton Zane scored the game's only goal just short of the hour mark, as the Soccerroos temporarily raced to the top of Group A action, undefeated after two games.

The best chance of the

opening 45 minutes fell to French captain Frank Lebeouf, who headed wide with an open goal in front of him, from a Laurent Robert free-kick.

Midfielder Brett Emerton was unlucky not to open the scoring in the second half, his shot in the 51st minute from a Zane lay-off leaving French keeper Gregory Coupet beaten, but the shot agonisingly wide of the mark.

Eight minutes later, Lebeouf earned his first yellow card of the game, bringing down Steve Corica ten metres out from the box, after the midfielder had cut through the French defence.

Josip Skoko took the free-kick, beating the wall and forcing the keeper into a diving save, the ball tipped onto the left post and rebounding back into play, directly into the path of Zane, who calmly slotted the ball away for 1-0 Australia.

In the 78th minute, Lebeouf was handed his second yellow card after a late tackle on Zane, the French captain dismissed from the field.

France had the opportunity to equalise in the 87th minute, but Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer pulled off a sensational save, denying a Robert header which was all but in, the Soccerroos finishing the game 1-0 victors.

AUSTRALIA'S MEN-OF-THE-MOMENT

Mark Schwarzer (gk), Tony Vidmar, Tony Popovic, Craig Moore, Kevin Muscat, Stan Lazaridis, Josip Skoko (Marco Bresciano 78), Paul Okon (captain), Steve Corica, Clayton Zane (John Aloisi 87), Brett Emerton.



Australian national soccer team players celebrating after defeating France in their Confederations Cup match at Taegu's World Cup Stadium, Seoul.



Brett Emerton (left) of Australia is challenged by Olivier Dacourt of France at the Confederations Cup match at Taegu's World Cup Stadium, South Korea.

AUSTRALIA	2
MEXICO	0

Australia got its Confederation Cup campaign off to the best possible start, with a 2-0 victory over Mexico, in the opening game in Korea last Wednesday night.

Mark Schwarzer was called into action at the other end in the 17th minute, forced into a diving save to deflect a shot from Mexico's rampaging winger, Abundis after some good work from teammate Rodriguez.

The Australians soon regained the upper hand, and were rewarded just three

minutes later with a goal by defender Shaun Murphy.

Good work down the right resulted in Steve Corica whipping a cross to the back post, with Murphy in behind Zane to head home for 1-0.

It took just a minute of play in the second half before Australia did increase its lead when captain Paul Okon furrowed down the right before crossing the ball in, for midfielder Josip Skoko slam home Australia's second from 20 metres out, for the final 2-0 scoreline.

HOW THEY FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
France	3	2	0	1	9	1	8	6
Australia	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	6
Korea Republic	3	2	0	0	3	6	-3	6
Mexico	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0

KOREANS SPOIL THE FUN

AUSTRALIA	0
SOUTH KOREA	1

Australia qualified for the semi-finals of the Confederations Cup on Sunday night, despite being beaten 1-0 by host nation Korea Republic, in the final Group A game, in Suwon and losing striker, Clayton Zane to a red card.

Soccerroos were made to defend for most of the first half, with the Koreans desperate to get the four goals required to overtake Australia on the Group A table, the continued attack paying off for the home side in the 24th minute.

Korean midfielder Sun Hong Hwang managed to out-manoeuvre Shaun Murphy in the goal-mouth, deftly clipping the ball over an advancing Mark Schwarzer, to record the first, and subsequently only goal of the game.

The introduction of Scott Chipperfield in the second half added spark to the Australian attack, the Wollongong Wolves midfielder creating Australia's best chance in the 73rd minute, racing towards goal and cutting back to David Zdrilic, whose shot was easily saved by the Korean keeper.

Five minutes from full-time, Clayton Zane again had the chance to score for the Soccerroos, his shot straight at the keeper, with the rebound back in the path of the striker.

The ensuing one-two with Brett Emerton saw Zane clash with the goal-keeper, resulting in the big striker being shown his second yellow card of the night, and marched on the field.

Zane will now miss Australia's semi-final encounter

with a yet to be determined opponent, but the Soccerroos will be strengthened by the return of Stan Lazaridis.

Frank Farina, the national coach described the defeat as, "disappointing yes, a little bit —

we knew we had to be beaten 4-0 not to go through, and I suppose in the first half, we lacked the spark and the energy we showed in the last two games, in terms of closing people down.

EMERTON RETURNS HOME

Brett Emerton will return to Australia, after completing Group matches with the Soccerroos. Emerton is set to take part in the wedding party for the weekend marriage of his sister, after making himself available to the Soccerroos for Australia's group matches.

Also due to be part of wedding parties this weekend are both captain Paul Okon and vice-captain Kevin Muscat, however both players will remain in camp, until the completion of Australia's semi-final on Thursday.

"It's unfortunate for us that we have a few players that have these commitments this weekend, but these commitments have been planned for 12 months, and we've really only had the dates for this tournament confirmed for six months," Farina said on the matter.



Australia's Paul Okon, right, competes for the ball with Mexico's Davino Duilio, left, during their Confederations Cup match in Suwon, in South Korea.



Victorian Premier League



VICTORIA vs NEW SOUTH WALES

VICS FALL SHORT AT EPPING

VICTORIA
1
NEW SOUTH WALES
3
By David Turkovic

A healthy sized crowd of over 1,200 flocked to the Epping Stadium last Saturday afternoon, to witness the revival of interstate rivalries between Victoria and New South Wales.

Despite the much-hyped build up coming into the match, the first encounter between the two states for over 21 years lacked the ferocity and velocity that the spectators and organisers were hoping to see.

Nonetheless, two classy goals by NSW proved to be the difference between the two sides as the visitors went home deserving victors, 3-1.

The match started quite tentatively for both sides, as it seemed both sets of players were getting accustomed to their own team mates as much as their opponents.

However, it took just eight minutes for Victoria to have its first real attempt on goal, even if a Brian MacNicol volley was scuffed wide.

NSW should have broken the deadlock, however, after 12 minutes when Devrim Huseyin got on the end of John Kyriazopoulos' cross, only to blaze his shot over the bar, when it seemed he had time and space to at least compose himself and make sure that he hit the target.

With NSW dominating around the ground, and Victoria still finding its feet - in particularly in defence - the visitors spectacularly went ahead with a rasping

long distance missile that left Jim Kourtis in the Victorian goal, rooted to the spot.

A penetrating cross from the right side was poorly dealt with by defender Mile Medjedovic, who dropped his clearing header into the danger area and right into the path of the charging Javier Mancino who left fly with a stinging shot that scorched the top right-hand corner of the goal. 1-0.

Victoria had an immediate chance to reply, as from the kick off, and with support coming from the midfield, Nick Tsaltas was given the chance to put John Crawley in the NSW goal under pressure.

However the Port Melbourne striker's attempt flew over the bar, providing Crawley with little action, but to retrieve the ball from the ball boy behind the goal.

In the 19th minute, Victoria again seemed keen to respond to NSW's lead and some fine work from the two Victorian forwards, gave NSW some reason for concern as Tsaltas put through Danny Gnjdjic, who unfortunately for the navy blues, sprayed his shot wide.

Little more happened for the remaining 25 minutes of the first half, with both teams making some rather simplistic errors and never really stringing any continuity into the game.

To the players credit, it seemed as though that all 22 players that took to the field had fully endorsed the FIFA and VSF's pre-match message of 'Fair Play', and as a result the game lacked some of the hard tackling and ferocity, in which soccer fans are accustomed to in



NEW SOUTH WALES: Led by Captain Damien Foxe was victorious over Victoria in the first interstate battle for 21 years. The Blues won the game 3-1 thanks to goals from Javier Mancino, Paul Dee and Robert Gomez.

regular league fixtures.

Nevertheless, the half-time break provided those in attendance an entertaining respite as the youngsters from the VSF's Goalkick program showed off what Australian Soccer has to look forward to in the future.

It also gave the crowd a chance to see some raw enthusiasm and imagination - something that unfortunately lacked in the first half of the main game.

Whatever Victorian coach, Peter Ollerton said to his troops at half time, must have taken some affect, because from the immediate outset of the restart, Victoria's Nick Tsaltas provided some much needed spark for Victoria, and with a diagonal run across the NSW goal, let fly from outside the penalty box, only to see his shot lift over the crossbar.

After eight minutes of the restart, Victoria again had a fine chance to equalise.

Following a classic 1-2 combination, Tsaltas held up possession of the ball waiting for Vojtek who was charging unmaned through the centre of the ground. Releasing the ball crisply, Tsaltas found Vojtek who had enough time to control the ball just inside the penalty box. When seeing that Crawley in the NSW goal slipped and fell to the ground, Vojtek immediately fired at goal - only to see the ball curl agonisingly wide of the right post.

A minute later, it was Victoria again that pushed forward, and after Jimmy Latinopoulos' cross from the left, Gnjdjic rose above the NSW defenders to guide his header goal bound, only to see the ball go just inches wide, much to the frustration of the home supporters.

But Victoria's spirited efforts for an equaliser were dealt a savage blow after 55 minutes, as match referee Gerry Connolly, awarded the visiting team a penalty kick for a debateable handball decision on Victorian defender, Thomas Karapatsos. Nonetheless, the day's 'man of the match' Paul Dee stepped up to convert the spot-kick, sending Jim Kourtis the wrong way. 2-0.

With NSW beginning to dominate the match around the midfield again, and looking increasingly dangerous up front, Victoria desperately needed something to give it hope.

After 61 minutes the 'Vics' finally found some

light at the end of the tunnel as Bulleen's Danny Gnjdjic collected a Damien Vojtek pass, checked the ball back onto his right foot, leaving his opponent for dead.

Utilising the space he created, Gnjdjic smashed home a ferocious thunderbolt strike that left Crawley no chance to react let alone to save. 2-1.

Victoria's revival was short lived however, as NSW restored its two-goal lead with a cracking strike from substitute Robert Gomez. Getting on the end of some fine play from the midfield, Gomez's burst of speed gave the Bonnyrigg player some space just outside the penalty box, and from 20 yards out, left fly with a left foot strike that cleared the cob-webs from the top left hand corner of the Victorian goal for 3-1.

NSW continued to dominate the final moments of the game, and through the leadership of its skipper, Damien Foxe - who brilliantly marshalled and controlled his defence all game - gave Victoria little chance for any possible revival.

Even so, Victoria did have one final chance to bridge the deficit in the final minute, when the ball fell to substitute Mijo Trupkovic, who unfortunately put his shot wide, signalling the end of any Victorian come-back.

In the first game between the two states for over 21 years, NSW were well deserving of its 3-1 victory.

Victoria 1 **New South Wales** 3
(Gnjdjic 61) (Mancino 17, Dee 55, Gomez 70)

VICTORIA: Kourtis (Brian 55), Antoniadis, Medjedovic, Nedanovski, Latinopoulos, Karapatsos (Groidis 67), Vojtek, Velkovski, MacNicol (Trupkovic 71), Gnjdjic, Tsaltas (Nilo 74).
Coach: Peter Ollerton

NEW SOUTH WALES: Crawley (Moore 74), Foxe, Tomasevic (Hokin 68), Devrim, Stubbs-Mills, Mancino (Gomez 55), Dee, Kyriazopoulos, Iocca, Huseyin, Lezzari (Cummins 64).
Coach: Brian Brown



Victorian Premier League

ROUND 17

SUNDAY, 10TH JUNE

Fawkner Blues vs Altona Magic

Altona East Phoenix v Green Gully Cavaliers

St Albans Saints v Preston Lions

Bentleigh Greens v Essendon Royals

MONDAY, 11TH JUNE

Pt Melbourne Sharks v Heidelberg Utd 3.00pm

Bulleen Zebras v Dandenong Thunder 8.15pm

For more information, log onto
www.soccervictoria.org.au

VIC PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 16)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	15	9	2	4	22	14	29
Port Melb'Rne Sharks	16	8	3	5	34	20	27
Bulleen Zebras	15	7	5	3	21	16	26
Altona East Phoenix	16	8	2	6	22	18	26
Green Gully Caval'Rs	15	7	4	4	25	19	25
St. Albans Saints	16	6	4	6	23	22	22
Altona Magic	16	6	4	6	22	21	22
Bentleigh Greens	14	6	3	5	21	13	21
Fawkner Blues	15	4	7	4	16	16	19
Preston Lions	16	5	4	7	14	24	19
Dandenong Thunder	16	4	5	7	19	30	17
Essendon Royals	16	0	3	13	14	40	3





QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



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PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UPS By Glenn Davis

By Glenn Davis

Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi believes Brisbane City's tight grip on the Queensland premier league title can still be loosened after the olives inflicted a convincing 5-0 away win over cellar dwellers Pine Rivers on Saturday night.

Wynnum's victory cut Brisbane City's lead to five points but the points table can still be affected greatly with several clubs still to play some important catch-up matches.

Tokesi was hoping for a Brisbane Lions victory over Brisbane City the previous round but the 0-0 scoreline still gave him some encouragement for his side to eventually overhaul the league leaders.

"The destiny is still pretty much with us as we've still got to play Brisbane City and if we win then their lead will be cut to three points," Tokesi said.

"I think we can beat Brisbane Lions - they're quite a beatable side but someone else has to topple Brisbane City."

"At the moment the other top



Wynnum's lanky striker, Anthony Roche, scored a goal against Pine Rivers.

three sides are all playing for second but if Brisbane City lose a game or two or even draw a couple then the premiership is wide open.

"Brisbane Lions and us are the only ones at the moment



closest enough to threaten Brisbane City but the Gold Coast are a good side and are just starting to hit their straps."

Tokesi would love nothing better to wrest the title from Brisbane City, a club he was closely associated with as national league player for eight seasons from 1977.

Tokesi coached Brisbane

City in 1996 losing the season's last game which handed the premiership to Brisbane Lions and subsequently went down to Lions in the grand final that year.

Tokesi is currently in his third coaching year at Wynnum after being Frank Farina's assistant for two years at the Brisbane Strikers.

The Strikers also were runners-up in the national league and won an historic grand final at Suncorp Stadium several

years ago with Tokesi playing an integral part in Farina's success as a player-coach.

Some of Wynnum's recent success can be attributed to the club's improved depth following the recent acquisition from Rochdale of midfielder and State captain Brad Ditton.

"Ditton came back after an injury and played well against Pine Rivers and we've got players now having to fight for their positions," Tokesi said.

One such player is the highly talented striker Scott Rocker, one of the league's leading goal scorers last season, who has been coming off the bench in recent matches.

Despite the Pine Rivers' scoreline, Wynnum had to work overtime to achieve their emphatic win in the end.

Wynnum had to rely on a penalty three minutes before halftime before it opened the scoring when the in-form Paul De Vries was brought down in the box.

Ever-reliable Steve Foreshaw made no mistake from the spot kick.

Pine Rivers, favourites to be relegated at the end of the season, fought hard but the

absence of three key players in suspended keeper Peter Underhill and injured Joel Hale and Dean Almond were sorely missed.

"Our scoring chances in the first half were limited but we missed a couple of sitters from inside the six-yard line which put a bit of pressure on us," Tokesi said.

"They're keeper hardly had to make a save in the first half but things changed after the break."

The second half saw a much more determined Wynnum extend their lead after just ten minutes when Josh Rose beat two defenders 20 metres out before curling a shot into the top corner.

Five minutes later a Foreshaw cross saw lanky striker Anthony Roche drive a shot onto the underside of the crossbar into the net for a 3-0 lead.

Roche picked his second for the game midway through the second half driving home from 18 metre after brilliantly rounding a Pine Rivers defender.

The final nail in Pine Rivers' coffin came ten minutes from time when a ball sat up nicely for Rose to volley home from inside the box for his double.

"Even though Pine Rivers are down at the bottom of the table they put a lot of effort in," Tokesi said.

break."

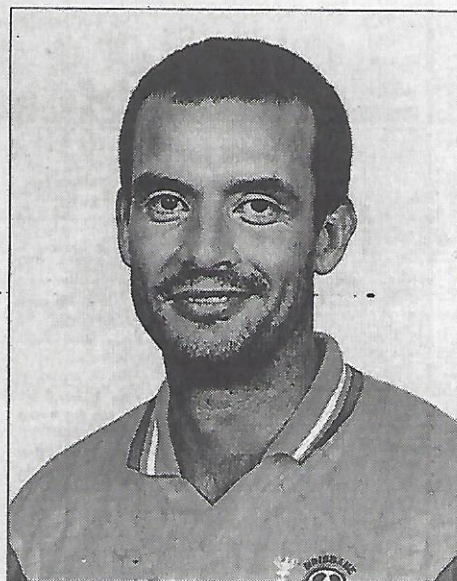
Only two others matches were played at the weekend with Easts and the Gold Coast picking up three valuable points.

At Jack Speare Park, Taringa held a 1-0 lead at half time following a strike from defender Dean Guyatt before the Gold Coast turned on the power after the break with four goals to run

out easy 4-1 winners.

Adam Poric and Steve Fitzsimmons did the damage with each netting a double.

At Heath Park, Easts moved further away from the relegation zone with a hard fought 2-1 win over Toowoomba with goals from Paul Foster and Dean Gowans while Jason Boswood replied for the visitors.



Paul Foster: helped Easts to a hard fought 2-1 victory over Toowoomba with a crucial goal.

ROUND 13 RESULTS

PINE RIVERS	0	WYNNUM	5
EASTERN SUBS	2	TBA RAIDERS	1
TARANGA ROVERS	1	GOLD COAST	4

QUEENSLAND

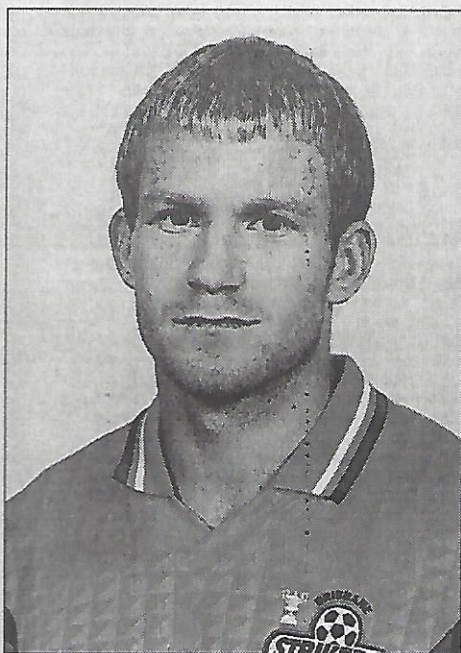
PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES (ROUND 13 cont.)

Saturday 9th June

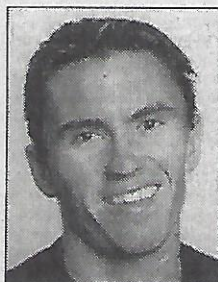
Mt Gravatt v Brisbane Lions	6.00pm
Rochdale Rovers v IPSW Knights	7.00pm

Sunday 10th June

Brisbane City v Bundaberg Waves	Postponed
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Wynnum's recent signing, Brad Ditton, played well against Pine Rivers after recently coming back from injury.



Steve Fitzsimmons: scored a double for Gold Coast in their 4-1 victory over Taringa.



NSW Youth League Results



SUPER LEAGUE

GRADE 18: Manly Warringah Dolphins 9 Rockdale City Suns 2.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 13: Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Wollongong Wolves 1, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown City Demons 5, Sydney United 0 St George 2, Parramatta Eagles 2 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Penrith Panthers 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3 Fairfield Bulls 0, Marconi Stallions 1 Bankstown City Cubs 5, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Northern Spirit 2, Sydney Olympic 2 Central Coast Coasties 0, Sutherland Shire 5

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.

GRADE 14: Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Wollongong Wolves 2, Newcastle United 1 Blacktown City Demons 2, Sydney United 1 St George 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Macarthur Rams 2 Penrith Panthers 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 Fairfield Bulls 0, Marconi Stallions 2 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Northern Spirit 6, Sydney Olympic 2 Central Coast Coasties 0, Sutherland Shire 4 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.

GRADE 15: Sydney United 2 Wollongong Wolves 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Wollongong Wolves 2, Newcastle United 1 Blacktown City Demons 7, Sydney United 1 St George 1, Parramatta Eagles 3 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Macarthur Rams 0 Penrith Panthers 1, Leichhardt Tigers 0 Fairfield Bulls 0, Marconi Stallions 1 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Northern Spirit 2, Sydney Olympic 2 Central Coast Coasties 2, Sutherland Shire 0 Bonnyrigg White

Eagles 3.

GRADE 17: Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Wollongong Wolves 0, Newcastle United 1 Blacktown City Demons 3, Sydney United 1 St George 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Penrith Panthers 2, Leichhardt Tigers 3 Fairfield Bulls 0, Marconi Stallions Bankstown City Cubs Abandoned, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Northern Spirit 2, Sydney Olympic 4 Central Coast Coasties 0, Sutherland Shire 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

GRADE 11: Sydney United 1 Eastern Suburbs 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 Fairfield Bulls 1, Marconi Stallions 0 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Sydney Olympic

0 Central Coast Coasties 1, Sutherland Shire 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Macarthur Rams 0 Penrith Panthers 3.

GRADE 12: Sydney United 2 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Leichhardt Tigers 2 Fairfield Bulls 1, Marconi Stallions 0 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Sydney Olympic 2 Central Coast Coasties 1, Sutherland Shire 5 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Macarthur Rams 0 Penrith Panthers 2.

GRADE 13: Northern Spirit 5 Blacktown City 2. **GRADE 14:** Northern Spirit 4 Blacktown City 0.

GRADE 15: Northern Spirit 0 Blacktown City 1.

GRADE 16: Northern Spirit 1 Blacktown City 2.

GRADE 11: Parramatta Eagles 2 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2, Sydney United 1 St George 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Wollongong Wolves P/P, Northern Spirit 0 Blacktown City 2.

GRADE 12: Parramatta Eagles 0 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Sydney United 2 St George 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Wollongong Wolves P/P, Northern Spirit 2 Blacktown City 0.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Ticket Sales - for the NSL Grand Final at Parramatta Stadium the ticket sales started well in Wollongong. Long queues formed for tickets at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre on day one, Monday.

Transport buses, arranged by the Wolves were quickly filled, the first 10 buses were sold out within hours. Marketing Manager Greg Burgess phoned all around the South Coast to book more buses. He eventually laid hands on 50 coaches which took fans to Sydney for the Grand Final.

After the initial disappointment of not playing the game in Wollongong -WIN Stadium is not suitable, agreed by most as obsolete, shonky facilities, no parking, a good playing surface.

Never the less, a match to be staged at Soccer's original home Brandon Park which could have been developed in the last years to any capacity if not for petty-politics by some other so-called football code and ego-driven interest groups, would have enthralled sports fans, established soccer as a major sport overtaking the others easy.

Soccer fanatics do not accept a former "greyhound and showground field" as was WIN Stadium, as preferable venue. They still hope to build another "Brandon Park" somewhere else in Wollongong.

Petrovski Overseas - Wolves prolific striker Sasho Petrovski - 21 goals in one season with probably one or two more to come. In 81 games he scored a total of 39 goals - is heading for Europe.

After the Grand Final he is now travelling to Austria and Germany for trials, hoping to win a players contract. Petrovski had three good seasons with the Wolves, coming originally from State League club Parramatta Eagles, winning over the Wolves fans with his excellent performances.

Naturally local supporters and the Wolves club would be sad to see Petrovski going, however wish him well in his efforts to compete at a higher level of soccer.

Home Boy Leavés - Matt Horsley, Wollongong's own soccer product, fondly known as the "Youngster from Balgownie", captain of the Champion Team, decided to go WEST.

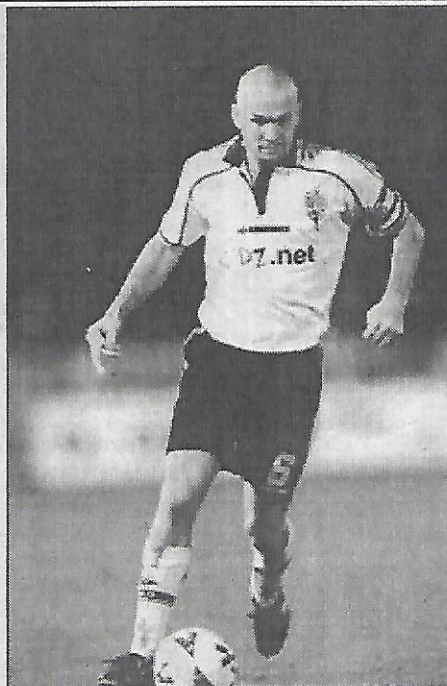
At the zenith of his soccer career Horsley is joining Perth Glory which released the news early, not at all appreciated by the locals of Illawarra. The mighty dollar entices the Wolves' favourite son.

The heart of the Wolves side is gone and the search for a replacement is on. The more that it took everyone by surprise. No hard feelings are harboured. All Wollongong fans while sad, wish him all the best. Surely one day, the South Coast's prodigal son will return to his origin. Horsley has advised the club that he is not going to re-sign, much to the disappointment of coach and General Manager Graeme Haney. Such is life in today's soccer world. Players go, players come. As a highlight of Horsley's soccer life he led the Wolves to victory for the last time in the Grand Final against South Melbourne.

Possible success with Perth Glory could see him play a future final. His and other departures will give one of two young players something to aim for, claiming a spot in first grade, providing they are ready to put in the hard yards. Recently a promising speedy youngster took the limelight in the Port Kembla v Kemblawarra game with his commitment and tenacity.

Some Good News - at last, the Wolves are able to release a positive media item - the signing of mercurial striker Stuart Young for three years.

He has been a real-hit in the NSL and a favourite with the fans. Approachable and a good communicator, well-mannered and the Media contact with the club. It seems Stuart with his young family has found a new home after several years of travelling in matters of soccer and will settle in Wollongong for hopeful a long time. With 34 goals in 63 games he is by far the most consistent goalscorer to play for the Wolves. The fans have seen some former "Greats" playing with the club like English strikers Alan



Matt Horsley: The Balgownie boy finally set to bid bye to the Wolves.

Brasil, Trevor Francis.

Mortimer and others, just to name a few and now have another English goal-getter in Stuart Young. It is assumed with Young's signing the others will consider staying with the club.

Wolves General Manager Graeme Haney said the club is delighted that Stuart Young agreed to stay with the Wolves on a long term basis. Around the local soccer fraternity the new has been greeted with great delight.

Illawarra Soccer - West Combined Sports - Western Suburbs Rugby League and Soccer club have joined forces to stage a mixed sports-men and or person Lunch at Wests Illawarra Club on Friday 29th June from 11.30 am, tickets on sale from Peter Woods on 0413008676 or John Whiddett on 0413008678.

Guest speakers attending are from

soccer Johnny Warren, Adrian Alston, Sasho Petrovski, Alvin Ceccoli and from Rugby League Brett Rodwell, John Dorahy, Rod Wishart, Jason Ryles, Andrew Hart.

ICU Premier League Results round 9 @ Comments - four home wins, one draw, one away-win, some big scores, total of 30 goals scored.

Wollongong Olympic v Shoalhaven City 8:0, a real shock for the visitors, great for the host who play next Bulli, Shoalhaven travel to Kemblawarra facing another tough opponent.

Port Kembla v Kemblawarra 5:2, played as pick-of-the-round on Sunday. Goals for Port from Nick Polimenakos (3), Michael Cizre, Robbie Cazzolli, for the visitors Anthony Malthews and Paul Gaffney. The score does not represent equal play by both, Kemblawarra having enough chances to do better than a 2:2 at half

time, an excellent game by both sides. Brett Kinninmont (Port) was named Man-of-the-match. Port faces next Lysaght, Kemblawarra are home to Shoalhaven.

Cringila v Lysaght 2:1, a close game, the visitors missing a penalty, goals for Cringila from Lupcho Naumovski and Tony Sekuloski, for Lysaght the scorer was Chad Bishop, they meet next Port, while Cringila travel to West.

Coniston v Western Suburbs 0:2, a rare away win, pleasing for West, goals from Gavin O'Brien, Matthew Bailey, coach Larry Gaffney looking to continue good form next against Cringila, Coniston play North.

Balgownie v Northern United 2:2, the first point for North, playing determined, the host scoring with Joe Bruni (2), the visitors with Cameron O'Neil and Damien Counter, they play next at home Coniston, Bally travel to Picton.

Bulli v Picton 6:0, a match marred by send-offs, goals scored by Rod Patterson (2), Shane Flack (2), Dean Hefferman, Nick Reilly, they play next Olympic, Picton host Balgownie.

Points Table = Kemblawarra 20, Port 20, Coniston 18, Olympic 16, Balgownie 15, West 13,

Cringila 13, Bulli 11, Lysaght 10, Picton 9, Shoalhaven 7, North 1. Reserve Grade leaders Coniston on 19, Youth Grade Lysaght on 20 points.

ICU First Division results = only 2 home wins, 5 away wins, one draw, total of 33 goals scored. Points of leading teams = Tarrawanna 18, Warilla 18 (a game in hand), Helensburgh 18, Kiama 17, Albion Park and Bellambi 16, in Reserve Grade leading Tarrawanna 24 and in Youth Grade University on 21 points.

Tarrawanna v Woonona 3:2, close game, local Derby, next they face Ruse and Highlands, both expect success.

Albion Park v University 1:2, a minor upset for the home side, well played by the "students" winning all grades, they play next Barbarians,

Park has the Bye.

Ruse v Helensburgh 0:5, clear win for the visitors, next opponents are Tarra and Fernhill.

Illawarra United v Bellambi 2:5, keeping the visitors in top six, the host at the bottom, next opponents Dapto and Berkeley.

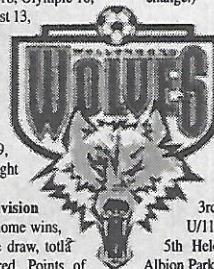
Highlands v Kiama 1:2, a solid performance by the visitors keeping in top part of the table, next opponents Woonona and Shellharbour City.

Barbarians v South Coast 2:2, the home side two goals up at the break before allowing the visitors to equalise, next opponents University an Warilla.

Fernhill v Warilla 1:3, a fine result for the visitors who have a game in hand to claim top spot, next opponents Helensburgh and South Coast.

Berkeley v Shellharbour City 3:0, several defensive mistakes by the visitors allowed a clear win for the host, next opponents Bellambi and Kiama.

Referee Quiz - one team plays in all blue, the other in all red. Both keepers are in black as are the referee and linespersons. What should be done? (Answer: Make both keepers change.)



Junior Soccer

competition leading teams after three rounds = U/11's 1st Division Oak Flats. U/11's 2nd Olympic. U/11's 3rd Helensburgh.

U/11's 4th Kiama. U/11's 5th Helensburgh. U/12's 1st Albion Park.

U/12's 2nd Oak Flats. U/12's 3rd Russell Vale. U/12's 4th Helensburgh. U/12's 5th Balgownie. U/13's 1st Shellharbour. U/13's 2nd Port. U/13's 3rd Dapto.

U/14's 1st Unanderra. U/14's 2nd Shellharbour. U/14's 3rd Albion Park.

U/15's 1st Oak Flats. U/15's 2nd Warilla. U/16's 1st Oak Flats.

U/16's Bulli. U/18's Tarrawanna. Girls Divisions = U/12's Helensburgh. U/14's Woonona. U/16's Woonona. U/18's Thirroul.

Winter Super League

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BLUES TOPPLE VICS



PAUL DEE: Goalscorer for the triumphant New South Wales Blues

VICTORIA NEW SOUTH WALES

EPPING STADIUM, VICTORIA

A healthy crowd of 3,000 people saw the revival of interstate football on Saturday 2 June.

The NSW Blues defeated their hosts, Victoria, 3-1 at Epping Stadium, Melbourne.

Both teams were drawn from their States' respective Premier Leagues and despite the NSW Premier League concluding in April, the Blues proved too strong for the Vics with their goals coming from Javier Mancino, Paul Dee (penalty) and Robbie Gomez.

Nick Tsaltas from the Port Melbourne Sharks scored for the home team.

NSW midfielder, Devrim Huseyin, a product of the New South Wales Institute of Sport, was

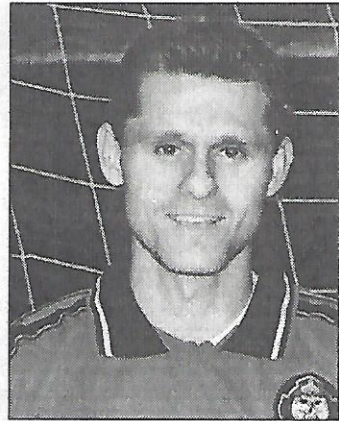
ecstatic about the side's victory: "We had only two training sessions together and to play like we did is a credit to the boys."

"We gelled very quickly on the field and completely shutdown Victoria."

"Our thoughts now turn to the State match against Queensland. They'll be tough as usual but we've a practice game against Sydney University soon and a couple more training sessions and I'm more than confident that we'll put in a good performance."

The Blues take on Queensland at Gabbie Stadium (Seven Hills, NSW) on Saturday 16 June, 6.30pm kick-off, with free entry.

The last time these two States met, NSW was victorious 3-2 at Perry Park in Brisbane in September 2000.



JAVIER MANCINO: Goalscorer for the triumphant New South Wales Blues

ROUND 12

SUNS SHINE IN LOCAL DERBY

Manly-Warringah 4
Hajduk Wanderers 2

Manly-Warringah returned to the winners list with a 4-2 victory over the Hajduk Wanderers at Cromer Park.

The match was only 4 minutes old when Richard Giometti put the visitors in front.

The Dolphins responded 11 minutes later with Adam Snyder equalising and soon hit the lead when Danny Townsend finished off a good move involving Antonio Farria, Hong Ryeal Ju and Snyder.

Just before the break, Giometti scored his double to again level up the match, cleaning up Trent Worrell's shot on goal which was parried onto the posts by the Manly keeper.

The second half saw the Dolphins record two more

goals through Steve Berry and Mark Beldham, the latter coming deep into injury time.

Rockdale City 3
Hurstville City 1

The Rockdale City Suns were able to overpower their neighbours Hurstville City Minotaurs in the local derby at the Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre thanks to a double from star striker and captain Spase.

Najdoski and a goal from hard running midfielder Nabil Codmani.

The Suns had their new sweeper Richard Plesa from Sydney United controlling the defence while Dean Culina played at stopper and did a good job holding the dangerous Evangelos Petratos. Francis Awariete, while not getting on the scoresheet, was always dangerous and created many opportunities for his teammates.

Macarthur Rams 2
Stanmore Hawks 1

On Macarthur's first foray into the Hawks half, David Maude slipped in behind the defence and sent in a lovely cross from the right hand touchline.

Meeting the ball was Gary Attard, whose first time shot took a small deflection from the leg of defender Sam Awad, enough to deceive goalkeeper Peter Spathis and register the Rams first goal.

Just three minutes later a Stanmore defensive error gave striker Leigh Gunn a real gift. Peter Vezos met an Eddie Briscoe freekick at the back post in the 26th minute but the Rams held on for the remainder of the game to record a 2-1 win.

Dulwich Hill 2
Fraser Park Jets 1
Dulwich Hill took the honours in the all-

Portuguese derby and has now completed the double over their fiercest rivals, the Fraser Park Jets at Arlington Oval.

Hill's strike pairing of Zlatko Donev and Steve Karavatakis both scored to secure a 2-1 victory, a repeat of their round 1 clash.

Ivo De Jesus' 73rd minute volley was not enough to salvage any kind of result for the visitors.

A typical derby match, the result never secure and some tight defence the order of the day.

Fairfield Bulls 2
Bankstown City 2

Bankstown had a tough game at Nineveh Field against Fairfield Bulls who had been reduced to ten men when keeper Frank Mikuletic was sent off for handling the ball outside his area.

Matt Borg and Paul Richardson were on target for the Bulls who are losing touch a little with the leaders after another drawn game. Robbie Gomez and Robbie Issa netted for the Lions who held a 2-1 lead until the 89th minute.

AC United 0
MSC Liverpool 0

MSC Liverpool has halted AC United's charge up the NSWSL ladder after the sides played out a dull 0-0 draw at Abruzzi Oval.

However, it could have been worse for United who were unlucky not to slump to their first loss since round seven after Paul Carter's side were reduced to 10 men early in the game.

Winter Super League

INTERSTATE CLASH

NEW SOUTH WALES
VS
QUEENSLAND

Saturday, 16th June • 6.30pm • Gabbie Stadium.

• FREE ENTRY •

ROUND 13

SATURDAY 9th JUNE

Fraser Park Jets v Rockdale City Suns Fraser Park
First Grade: 5.00pm U/21: 3.00pm U/18: 1.00pm

SUNDAY 10th JUNE

Bankstown City Lions v Dulwich Hill Jensen Park
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00am
M.S.C Liverpool v Fairfield Bulls Hammondville Oval
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00am
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Macarthur Rams St George Stadium
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00am
Stanmore Hawks v Manly Warringah Arlington Oval
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00am
Hajduk Wanderers v AC United Hajduk Stadium
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00am

RESCHEDULED GAMES:

Hajduk Wanderers v Fairfield Bulls
Wednesday 6th June, Nineveh Field, 8.15pm.

AC United v Dulwich Hill
Wednesday 6th June, Sydney Utd Sports Centre, 8.15pm.
Stanmore Hawks v Bankstown City Lions
Friday 8th June, Jensen Park, 7.30pm.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 12)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	11	8	2	1	24	14	26
Manly Warringah	12	7	2	3	31	20	23
Bankstown City Lions	11	6	3	2	24	9	21
Rockdale City Suns	12	6	2	4	27	20	20
Fairfield Bulls	11	5	4	2	35	17	19
Macarthur Rams	12	4	3	5	17	16	15
H'ville City Minotaurs	11	4	2	5	11	16	14
AC United	11	3	3	5	12	17	12
Fraser Park	11	3	2	6	14	22	11
Hajduk Wanderers	11	3	2	6	14	22	11
Stanmore Hawks	10	2	2	6	9	19	8
MSC Liverpool	1	1	3	7	13	43	6

For further information see: www.soccernsw.com.au

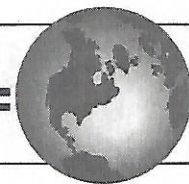
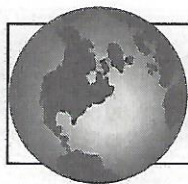
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FIFA/Confederations Cup

Lemerre hails rampant France

French coach Roger Lemerre said he was delighted with his revamped team after they served up a harsh soccer lesson to South Korea with a 5-0 win in the opening match of the Confederations Cup last week.

"The result showed this was a great performance by the French team and we can now think about going on in the competition," he said.

"The new players did very well which justifies their selection and is very encouraging for the World Cup next year."

Steve Marlet, making his first start for France after a brief appearance as a substitute against Turkey last November, opened the scoring with a spectacular left foot volley and had an excellent match, before being replaced by Sylvain Wiltord after 67 minutes.

Eric Carriere of Nantes also impressed on his debut and Olivier Dacourt of Leeds won his first cap when he came on for Arsenal's Robert Pires.

Several of France's World and European championship winners including Zinedine Zidane and David Trezeguet are not in the French party giving Lemerre a chance to experiment.

Lemerre added: "There have been very few changes in the team over the last four years which has given us a lot of stability and we have proved we can achieve results."

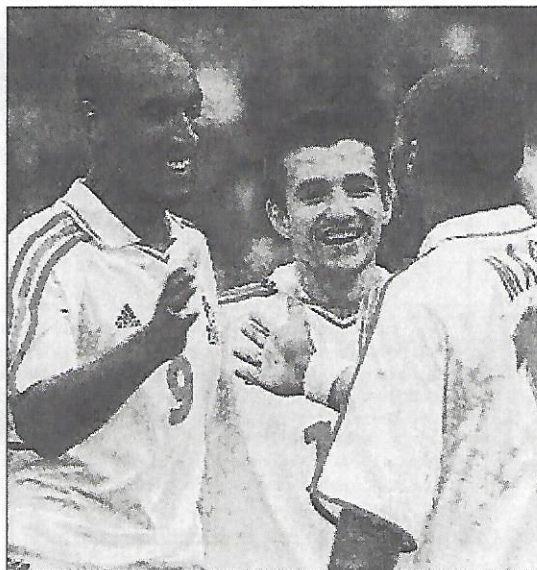
"There is a lot of confidence in the side and the new players coming in adapted well today. Winning the first game is very important and now we can think about going on further in the competition."

South Korea's Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said: "Before the game I said it would be very important for us to try and match the level of the top European team as we are the strongest country in Asia."

"But in the first half we were beaten by the French midfield play and our morale suffered although we did recover a bit in the second half."

"But with the French leading 3-0 at halftime it was an easy game for them in that respect. We have to face facts, international football is very tough nowadays and Korea has a long way to go to minimise the gap that exists."

"We showed the French too much respect especially in the first half when we were marking three or four yards away."



Nicolas Anelka (left) of France is congratulated by teammates Eric Carriere (C) and Steve Marlet after he scored the third goal during the opening match of the FIFA Confederations cup against South Korea.

Japan carve up colourless Canada

CANADA	0
JAPAN	3

Shinji Ono and Akinori Nishizawa struck in the 57th and 60th minutes and Hiroaki Morishima added a late third to give Japan a 3-0 win over Canada in their Confederations Cup match last week.

Urawa midfielder Ono, coveted by a number of European clubs, opened the scoring with a 30-yard free-kick following a period of sustained Japan pressure at Niigata Big Swan Stadium.

Moments later, striker Nishizawa, of Spanish club Espanyol, brought the crowd of 39,006 to its feet as he stooped to head a right-wing cross from Hiroaki

Morishima past Canada goalkeeper Craig Forrest.

Man-of-the-match Ono then released Morishima, who rounded Forrest to make it 3-0 in the 88th minute and cap an excellent second-half performance.

ANGRY FRANCE HAMMER MEXICO

Midfielder Eric Carriere struck twice in the second half as France beat Mexico 4-0 in their final qualifying game of the Confederations Cup to progress as Group A winners to the semi-finals.

Carriere was only winning his second cap for France who went through as winners on goal difference from Australia who lost 1-0 to South Korea in Suwon.

France opened the scoring in the eighth minute when Willy Sagnol found the unmarked Arsenal striker Sylvain Wiltord who hammered it in from the edge of the area.

The world champions, who surprisingly lost 1-0 to Australia in their second match, then had to wait until the second half before Carriere chipped a second over the Mexican goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez in the 62nd minute.

Robert Pires added another nine minutes later, picking up the ball from just inside the Mexico half before running through the defence and guiding it home.

Carriere finished the scoring, tapping in from short-range after skipper Marcel Desailly's shot was only parried by Sanchez seven minutes from time.



Robert Pires (left) of France challenges Choi Sung Young of South Korea during the opening match of the FIFA Confederations cup at Taegu's World Cup stadium

BRAZIL OVERRUN CAMEROUN'S LIONS



Brazil's forward Sonny Anderson (left) dribbles the ball past Cameroun's Geremi Njitap during the second half in the FIFA Confederation Cup.

BRAZIL	2
CAMEROUN	0

Brazil brushed aside criticism that they were fielding a "B-class" outfit by beating Cameroon 2-0 in the opening

Group B match of the Confederations Cup last week.

Cameroun played well in defence in the first half but the African champions failed to take advantage, missing some good scoring chances.

Salomon Olembe's long shot on goal after 21 minutes missed the target while the Brazil defence denied Parma striker Patrick Mboma a goal in the 40th.

The South American champions were a different team in the second half, speeding up their play and quickly producing results.

Washington capitalised on a long pass from midfield after 52 minutes, blasting a shot from 10 metres past Cameroon goalkeeper Boukar Alioum.

Miguel Carlos, a substitute for Vagner from the re-start, made it 2-0 with a spectacular left-foot volley just five minutes later.

Vieira not for sale — Wenger

French midfielder Patrick Vieira is not for sale, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has said.

Vieira has been linked to a 24 million pound move from the English Premiership to Barcelona and Manchester

United have also expressed an interest in the 1998 World Cup winner.

But, although Vieira has indicated he is not happy at Arsenal's failure to land a major trophy this season, Wenger is determined to keep the 24-year-old.

"The speculation about Patrick Vieira has really annoyed me because there is no way we are going to sell him," the manager told French soccer magazine Foot Transfers.

"No club in the world sells its very best player if it has any sort of ambition."

Vieira was one of Wenger's first signings for Arsenal when he joined in a 3.5 million pound move from AC Milan in August 1996.

"Patrick is simply not available, that is the end of the matter. It is just not possible for anyone to buy him,"

Wenger added.

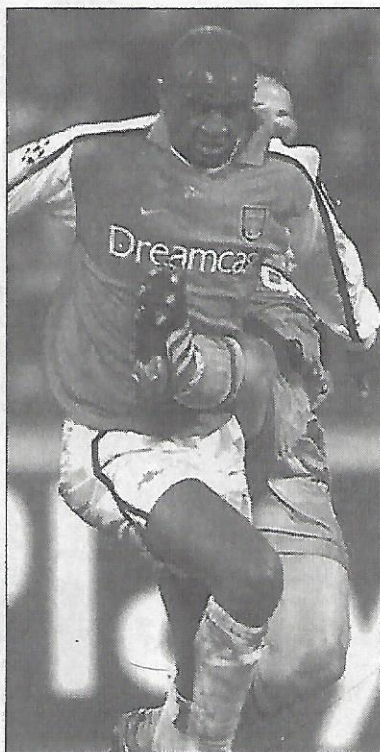
Wenger also ruled out a move for England international defender Sol Campbell.

Campbell is quitting White Hart Lane on a free transfer on June 30 after Tottenham Hotspur rejected what they said were his demands for a weekly salary of 130,000 pounds.

Wenger is determined to maintain Arsenal's pay structure and has told Campbell he must lower his wage demands before he would consider a move.

"You can build a great team without making your club bankrupt," said Wenger. "We won't pay anyone 100,000 pounds a week."

You have to be sensible. "We want to build a big team, but you don't have to do it with the biggest players."



Patrick Vieira: Arsenal are determined to hold onto him despite offers from several clubbers.

SCOTS EYE 2008 EURO CUP HOSTING

The Scottish Football Association (SFA) took another step towards bidding to host the 2008 European championships with the publication of a feasibility study.

And Scotland's first minister Henry McLeish and SFA chief executive David Taylor announced they had joined forces behind the bid.

The study revealed that, to be successful, Scotland would need either to provide two new 30,000 seat stadiums or involve another country — probably Ireland or Wales or both — in a share scheme.

Scotland has four major stadiums — Ibrox, Hampden and Celtic Park in Glasgow and Murrayfield in Edinburgh, home of Scottish rugby — but no decision on whether to go it alone or look for a partner has yet been made.

The report concluded that Scotland would stand a good chance of being successful in its bid as its standing within UEFA is high.

Other bids are likely to come from Russia, Austria/Switzerland, Greece/Turkey and a multi-country effort from Scandinavia.

A final decision on whether to go ahead is expected by November and the bid must be with UEFA by next May.

The decision on who will host the event will be made early in 2003.

Fergie explains Cantona's Man Utd return

Eric Cantona is returning to Manchester United to help coach the English champions' youngsters.

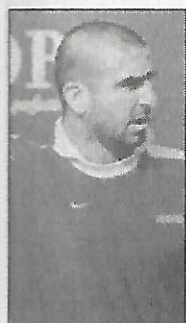
"Eric wants to get back into the game so we've given him the opportunity to help coach the young players at the start of next season," manager Alex Ferguson told the club's website.

"It's not an appointment, but a casual arrangement to allow Eric to gain some experience of coaching."

The French midfielder, voted player-of-the-century by Manchester United supporters last season, retired from soccer at the end of the 1996-97 season aged 30.

During his glittering but often controversial time at United he led the club to a league and cup double in 1995-96. He was England's footballer of the year in 1996.

Since his retirement Cantona has acted in several films and toured the world playing beach soccer.



Eric Cantona

Ex-Brazil coach in court

Former Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has appeared before a federal court over charges that he lied about his age, his lawyer Michel Asséf said.

Asséf said that Luxemburgo, sacked by Brazil in September, appeared in court last week to make a statement into allegations that he used a birth certificate stating he was born in 1955 instead of 1952.

The case has gone to court because police say Luxemburgo used the certificate to obtain a passport. The offence carries a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Asséf said the birth certificate was obtained by Luxemburgo's late father when Luxemburgo was a boy.

"He's innocent because somebody else got the certificate and he was only 12 years old at the time," Asséf said.

Asséf said that Luxemburgo also appeared at a separate court hearing on Tuesday over allegations of tax evasion. Luxemburgo has repeatedly said that he made a mistake in his declarations.

Both cases could take up to three years to be heard.

Luxemburgo has been one of the central figures in a Congressional commission



Wanderley Luxemburgo

inquiry, which is investigating alleged mismanagement and corruption in Brazilian football.

Last November, he appeared before the commission in the Senate to answer questions about his income.

The commission, which had investigated Luxemburgo's bank accounts, told Luxemburgo that his income was not compatible with his profession and that his explanations had been unsatisfactory.

Luxemburgo returned to club coaching in February, when he rejoined Corinthians, who he guided to the Brazilian championship title in 1998.

Chairman of Moroccan Soccer club and three-time African champions, Raja de Casablanca, has resigned after his team's second-round exit from the African Champions League last week.

Ahmed Ammor said in a letter carried by the official MAP news agency that he handed his resignation to the club's board of directors.

During his term in charge, the "Green Devils" have won the national championship for the past three years, an African

RAJA BOSS QUILTS OVER CUP OUSTER

Champions Cup, a Super African Cup and an Asian-African Cup.

Ammor said his team's exit from the continental cup was only "the last straw".

Raja, who won a sixth successive domestic championship earlier this month, beat TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo 2-1 in

their second round second leg match in Casablanca but were eliminated 3-2 on aggregate.

Last year the Moroccans were the defending champions but also surprise early victims in the Champions League, beaten at the same stage by Jeanne d'Arc of Senegal.

Ammor attributed his resignation to what he

described as "the ongoing destruction of the club and the absence of a healthy climate".

"Some members of Raja have not stopped disturbing the club's running, going to the extent of orchestrating a defamatory campaign against me," he said, without naming the members or giving any further details.

FIFA HITS DAVIDS, COUTO WITH BAN

Dutch international Edgar Davids and Portugal's Fernando Couto have been suspended from all football with immediate effect, FIFA says.

The suspension, announced, will run until the end of the open-ended ban imposed by the Italian authorities after the players tested positive for illegal substances.

Davids of Juventus and Lazio's Couto will therefore not be eligible to play in the upcoming World Cup qualifiers of the Netherlands and Portugal

on 2 and 6 June 2001.

Both countries are in qualifying group two with second-placed Portugal playing Ireland on Saturday and Cyprus this Wednesday.

FIFA has yet to make a decision on another Dutch international, Frank De Boer, who has also tested positive but is awaiting the result of tests on his B sample.

His case will be dealt with by UEFA at a meeting provisionally scheduled for 14 June.

FIFA informed the respective associations last

week from Seoul, where officials are attending the Confederations Cup.

FIFA's statement said: "Both players have been sanctioned by the competent Italian bodies for having tested positive for a substance prohibited under the applicable regulations."

"Under the current FIFA regulations, a player who is suspended for having breached a compulsory regulation is also prevented from playing in other associations for the duration of his suspension."

HITZFELD'S HOUSE BURGLED

Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld's house has been burgled, the Munich police said last week.

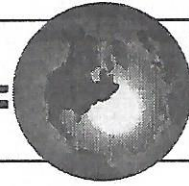
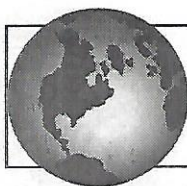
Goods worth 210,000 marks (\$91,070), among them a stereo system, a video camera, a golf bag and the car of Hitzfeld's wife Beatrix, were stolen, police said.

Bayern Munich spokesman Markus Hoerwick said both Hitzfeld and his wife were in their home in the exclusive Munich suburb of Gruenwald when the break-in happened during the night.

Hitzfeld led Bayern to the European Champions League title penultimate week.



Hitzfeld



RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

"We are not in Japan yet", with those words in a radio interview Italian coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, modestly summed up Italy's position after their 2-1 victory in Tbilisi against Georgia on the weekend.

It was Italy's last World Cup qualifying game for season 2000/01 and one that very likely will see them make their way to Korea and Japan next year.

Italy have virtually secured their passage to next year's World Cup under the guidance of the legendary Trapattoni.

It was Roma's Marco Delvecchio who opened the scoring in the 45th minute and it was his Roma teammate, Francesco Totti, who scored the Azzurri's second in the 67th minute. The 'Roma connection' which also includes the likes of Vincenzo Montella is very important to Italy. At club level they are superb and also they are faultless at national level.

Italy did have the better of the game even though Georgia's late goal did cause some panic, and perhaps a little heartache, for Italy.

On the whole it was a good game and one certainly the Azzurri did deserve to win.

They probably were in control from beginning to finish and the three invaluable points were certainly most appreciated by Italy.

Often in Italy's history they have struggled against the minor countries and many may have expected a draw. However, this is a different Italy and Trapattoni is no longer regarded as the defensive coach that his reputation would have you believe.

For the Azzurri there is now a well-deserved summer break and the Italian Federation can start securing airline tickets and hotel accommodation for next year in Korea and Japan!

◆◆◆

As we head into the final two rounds of the Serie A there are still three teams who are, at least mathematically, in with a chance of winning the title (Scudetto).

Roma should have wrapped it up a couple of weeks ago but now a victory this weekend against Napoli will confirm that. It will be their first title since 1983.

However, the match against Napoli will not be easy. Firstly they are away and the Neapolitans must win if they have any chance of remaining in the Serie A. A loss will almost certainly send Napoli crashing out of the Serie A after only one season back in it.

The Napoli v Roma clash might well decide the fate of the title and the fate of Napoli for this season.

Roma's nearest rivals Juventus are only four points behind the league leaders and they are away to Vicenza this coming weekend. For both Juventus and Vicenza this is a must-win game.

Juventus need to win to maintain their faint title chances alive while Vicenza also need to win to keep their Serie A survival chances going.

The other team with an outside chance of taking the title is Lazio, five points off the pace with two games remaining. Their next game is at home to Fiorentina and they are never an easy opponent. However, for Lazio to win the title they need to win both their games, hope that Roma lose both of theirs and that Juventus stumble in at least one of their games. This is usually called a miracle but this team did achieve just that last year!

At the bottom end of the table there are five teams who are within two points of each other — Vicenza, Lecce, Reggina, Napoli and Verona — and there are three more relegation places to be filled with Bari having claimed one already weeks ago.

It is at this end of the table that there is a lot of interest. Vicenza play Juventus and Udinese, Lecce face Bologna and Lazio, Reggina play Perugia and AC Milan, Napoli must take on Roma and Fiorentina and Verona face Parma and Perugia.

The mathematical possibilities are endless and all will be striving to survive. I would guess that Verona, Napoli and Lecce might make their way to the Serie B but Vicenza v Juventus and Reggina v AC Milan will be no easy games for Vicenza and Reggina who are both hoping to survive the drop. All will be unveiled over the coming two weekends.

ITALY ... ITALY ...

Classy Azzurris leave Trap smiling



Italian players Giuseppe Pancaro and Paolo Maldini control the ball as they are challenged by Georgian's Mikheil Kavelashvili (right) during their Korea-Japan 2002 World Cup qualifier soccer match played at the National Stadium in Tbilisi.

Italy virtually booked their place for the 2002 World Cup finals with a 2-1 win against Georgia over the weekend.

Goals from AS Roma pair Marco Delvecchio and Francesco Totti gave Giovanni Trapattoni's side a comfortable lead but they suffered some late nerves after Giorgi Gakhokidze pulled one back for the home side ten minutes from the end.

Italy now have 16 points with two games remaining and although Romania and Hungary have games in hand on the Italians,

Trapattoni's side are all but sure of automatic qualification for Japan and South Korea.

"We are not there yet. The slip-up at the end caused us some tension but overall we competed well, fought hard and we deserved this result," said the Italian coach.

"It was tough out there especially in the heat."

Georgia, who had caused

Italy plenty of problems in their previous meeting, opted for caution, keeping plenty of men behind the ball from the outset.

That gave Totti room to dictate play and the Roma skipper was constantly involved in his role just behind the front two of Delvecchio and Alessandro Del Piero.

Delvecchio, a controversial choice ahead of his in-form club team mate Vincenzo Montella, made no mistake on the stroke of half-time with a near-post header from a Gianluca Zambrotta cross.

Italy regrouped again and Totti doubled their advantage in the 67th minute, racing on to a through ball from another Roma player, Damiano Tomassi, and rounding the Georgian goalkeeper Irakli Zoidze before slotting home.

Giorgi Gakhokidze pulled one back for Georgia ten minutes from the end with a close-range left-foot shot from a tight angle after he had been left unmarked inside the area.

But despite the late goal, only the third Italy have conceded in qualification, Trapattoni was pleased.

He praised the performance of Totti, whose form this season has led to comparisons with some of the greats of Italian football.

"Francesco gave a great performance tonight. I believe that if he continues like this we will soon just be talking about Totti in his own right," he said.



MATCH STATISTICS

GEORGIA 1
ITALY 2

Scorers:

Georgia - Giorgi Gakhokidze 80

Italy - Marco Delvecchio 45, Francesco Totti 66

Halftime: 0-1;

Attendance: 28,000

Gianluca Zambrotta, 8-
Damiano Tomassi, 9-
Marco Delvecchio (17-
Vincenzo Montella 79), 10-
Francesco Totti, 11-
Alessandro Del Piero (15-
Angelo Di Livio 59)

Referee - Eduardo Iturralde (Spain)

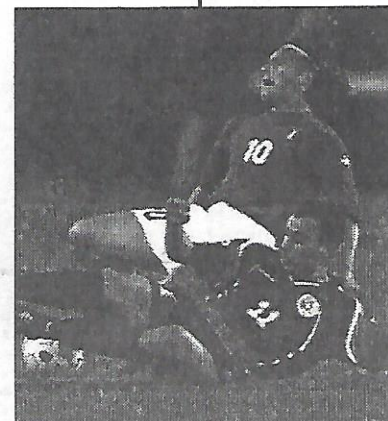
Line-ups:

GEORGIA: 1-Irakli Zoidze, 2-Levan Silagadze, 3-Valeri Abramidze, 4-Alexander Rekhviashvili, 5-Zurab Khizanishvili (17- Giorgi Gakhokidze 80), 6-Kakha Kaladze, 7-Georgi Nemsadze (14-Shota Arveladze 35), 8-Mikhail Kavelashvili, 9-Temur Ketsbaia, 10-Levan Kobiashevili, 11-Zurab Menteshashvili (13-Archil Arveladze 61).

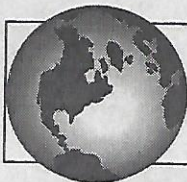
ITALY - 1-Gianluigi Buffon, 2-Guiseppe Pancaro, 3-Paolo Maldini, 4-Alessio Tacchinardi, 5-Fabio Cannavaro, 6-Alessandro Nesta (14-Marco Materazzi 73), 7-



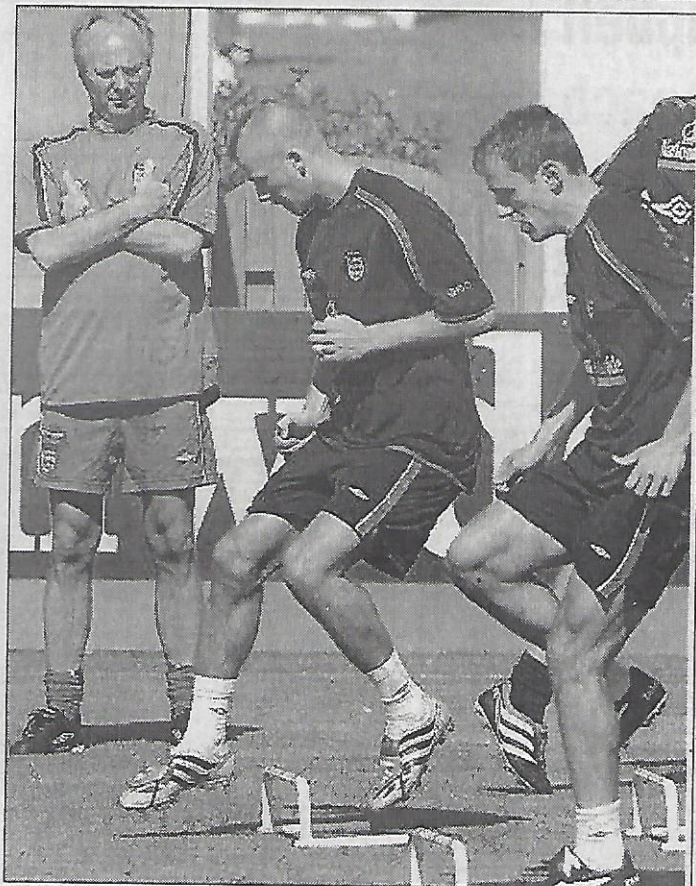
Italy's national Francesco Totti celebrate after scoring a goal during their Korea-Japan 2002 World Cup qualifier soccer match played at the National Stadium in Tbilisi.



Georgia's Zurab Menteshashvili falls to the ground while trying to stop Francesco Totti from Italy during their Korea-Japan 2002 World Cup qualifier soccer match played at the National Stadium in Tbilisi.



ENGLAND ... ENGLAND ...



England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson (left) watches as David Beckham (C) and Phil Neville jump over hurdles during a training session at La Manga in Spain. England are due to face Greece in a crucial World Cup qualifier on June 6 in Athens.

England ready for Greece despite Owen injury scare

England striker Michael Owen has missed training for the second successive day last week, but England officials were playing down suggestions he could miss this week's World Cup game against Greece in Athens.

Owen is suffering from lower back pain and missed training at England's training camp at La

Manga, Spain on Wednesday and Thursday.

But new assistant coach Sammy Lee is confident the Liverpool striker will be fit for this Wednesday's group nine game.

"We had two flights out here and his back was a little sore so he was kept out of training as a precaution," said Lee.

"I'm not a physio but I can't see

him missing the Greece game."

Owen was back to his sparkling best in the last few weeks of the English season, his lively display in England's impressive 4-0 victory over Mexico in a friendly in Derby last Friday, capping a great few weeks in which his goals helped his club Liverpool win the UEFA Cup, FA Cup and a place in next season's Champions League.

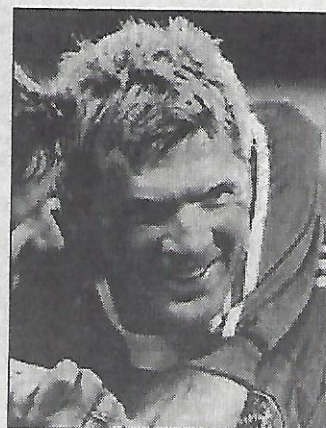
Effenberg eyes England move

Bayern Munich playmaker and captain Stefan Effenberg plans to move to England after one more season with the European champions, his wife and manager has said.

"What will happen next has been clear to us for quite some time," Martina Effenberg told the daily Bild. "We will leave Munich and go to England."

Effenberg, 32, has said several times that he wanted to leave Bayern for a foreign club once his contract expires at the end of June 2002.

Bayern commercial manager Uli Hoeness also said that the Munich club were hoping to buy



Stefan Effenberg: Keen on a taste of English Premiership action.

Germany midfielders Michael Ballack and Sebastian Deisler, currently with Bayer Leverkusen and Hertha Berlin respectively.

If the two joined, Effenberg's contract would not be extended, Hoeness added.

Effenberg first played for Bayern from 1990 to 1992 before rejoining them from Borussia Moenchengladbach in 1998.

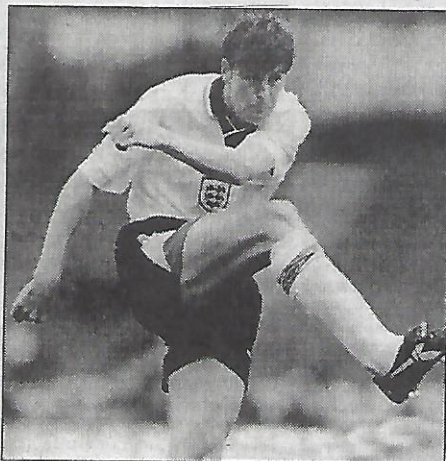
SPURS ACE ANGRY OVER CAMPBELL'S DEPARTURE

Darren Anderton's future at Tottenham Hotspur is in doubt after the England midfielder accused the club of not doing enough to keep defender Sol Campbell.

Anderton voiced his displeasure after seeing his England international team mate turn down Spurs' reported offer of 80,000 pounds a week to sign a new contract.

And the 29-year-old, who is currently out of contract himself, believes vice-chairman David Buchler did not do enough to keep Campbell.

Speaking on bigfanof.com, Anderton said: "I'm bitterly disappointed by Sol Campbell's decision to leave



Darren Anderton: Unhappy over Spurs' inability to keep ex-captain, and ace defender Sol Campbell.

Tottenham. The club have not done enough to keep him.

"They knew his contract was up and they should have sorted it out much earlier, maybe even a year or two before now.

"He is one of the top defenders in the world and the club are just letting him walk away.

"I am also out of contract and it makes me question my future.

"His concern was that the club was not ambitious enough and that's why he has decided to move on. It's a big shame.

"The way I see it, if we can't keep a top player, how do we expect to buy top players? That's a worry on my part."

Neville initials new Man Utd deal

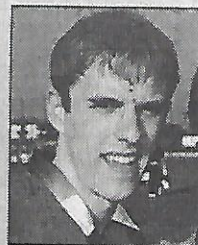
Manchester United defender Phil Neville has signed a new six-year contract with the club and says he never wants to leave.

The 24-year-old England international has been in and out of United's first team this season but said he had no hesitation at extending his connection with a club he has served since he was 16.

"All it took was a 10-minute meeting with United's chief executive Peter Kenyon and the deal was done," Neville told Icons.com on Wednesday.

"I had four years to run on my existing seven-year deal but this means I will be at United until at least I'm 30.

"It is my wish that I will never leave Old Trafford. I con-



Phil Neville

sider it a tremendous honour to play for United and having been a supporter all my life there is no other club I ever want to play for."

Neville is currently in Spain with the England squad, preparing for this week's World Cup qualifying match against Greece in Athens.

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until June 20)



1	France	796	68=	Iraq	506	136	Rwanda	294
2	Brazil	794	70	Kuwait	503	137	Tahiti	284
3	Argentina	763	71	Canada	502	138	Solomon Isl.	281
4	Italy	748	72=	Bosnia-Herz	499	139	Tajikistan	275
5	Portugal	732	72=	Georgia	499	140	Ethiopia	273
6	Spain	724	74	Burkina Faso	497	141	Yemen	272
7	Czech Republic	722	75	Bolivia	496	142	Luxembourg	257
8	Netherlands	715	76	Senegal	493	143=	Andorra	255
9	Germany	711	77	Congo-DR	489	143=	Liechtenstein	255
10	Paraguay	703	78	Liberia	485	145	Bangladesh	253
11	Yugoslavia	689	79	Albania	483	146	Tanzania	251
12	Romania	683	80	Togo	479	147=	Korea DPR	248
13	Mexico	680	81=	Cuba	478	147=	Maldives	248
14	England	673	81=	Macedonia FYR	478	149	Palestine	245
15	United States	666	83	Algeria	474	150	St Kitts & Nevis	242
16	Colombia	665	84	Indonesia	471	151	Antigua & Barbuda	240
17	Norway	663	85=	Guinea	469	152	Botswana	239
18	Russia	652	85=	Qatar	469	153	Surinam	236
19	Croatia	650	87	Namibia	458	154	Benin	232
20	Denmark	645	88=	Belarus	457	155	Sri Lanka	224
21	Sweden	643	88=	Haiti	457	156	Nepal	220
22	South Africa	634	90	Congo	454	157	Dominica	219
23	Poland	627	91	Syria	449	158	Bermuda	214
24	Scotland	624	92	Lithuania	448	159	Cape Verde Isl.	208
25	Slovakia	623	93	El Salvador	447	160=	Cayman Islands	207
26	Morocco	622	94	Oman	445	160=	Gambia	207
27	Ireland Republic	617	95	Armenia	444	162	Dominican Rep.	206
28	Saudi Arabia	615	96	Latvia	443	163	British Virgin Is.	202
29	Turkey	614	97	New Zealand	442	164	Kyrgyzstan	201
30	Belgium	612	98	Vietnam SR	437	165	San Marino	194
31	Tunisia	611	99	Gabon	436	166	Eritrea	192
32	Chile	607	100	Jordan	432	167	Chinese Taipei	184
33	Uruguay	601	101	N. Ireland	423	168	Mauritania	181
34	Austria	599	102	Moldova	421	169	Cambodia	171
35=	Egypt	595	103	Barbados	417	170	Chad	169
35=	Trinidad & Tobago	595	104	Kenya	416	171	Laos	168
37	Cameroon	592	105	Mali	412	172	Samoa	167
38	Slovenia	584	106	Kazakhstan	407	173	Vanuatu	159
39	Korea Rep.	580	107	Singapore	406	174	Cook Islands	155
40	Ukraine	573	108=	Malaysia	404	175	Guyana	153
41=	Cote d'Ivoire	571	108=	Uganda	404	176	Tonga	148
41=	Iran	571	110	Wales	398	177	Philippines	130
43	Bulgaria	570	111	Lebanon	396	178	Nether. Antilles	129
44	Japan	568	112	Venezuela	393	179	Cent. African Rep.	124
45	Ecuador	567	113	Libya	374	180	Guinea-Bissau	121
46	Jamaica	566	114	Turkmenistan	373	181	Macao	115
47	Israel	564	115	Mozambique	371	182	Bahamas	114
48=	Greece	558	116	India	370	183	Sao T. Principe	113
48=	Honduras	558	117	Azerbaijan	365	184=	Aruba	101
50	Nigeria	555	118	Bahrain	359	184=	Niger	101
51	Peru	553	119=	Madagascar	354	186	Mongolia	94
52	Angola	552	119=	Malawi	354	187	Belize	91
53	Hungary	551	121	Mauritius	352	188	Eq. Guinea	88
54	Costa Rica	548	122	Fiji	349	189	Seychelles	81
55	Iceland	546	123	Faroe Islands	347	190	Brunei Dar.	80
56	Zambia	543	124	Panama	343	191	Djibouti	78
57	Finland	530	125	Sudan	338	192	Pakistan	71
58	Switzerland	527	126	St Vincent/	331	193	Nicaragua	69
59	Guatemala	526	127	Grenadines	331	194	Anguilla	65
60	Uzbekistan	525	127	St Lucia	327	195	PNG	63
61	Ghana	521	128	Hong Kong	319	196	Somalia	57
62	Thailand	517	129	Swaziland	316	197	Puerto Rico	51
63	China PR	515	130	Malta	315	198	US Virgin Islands	48
64	UAE	514	131	Sierra Leone	313	199	Guam	28
65=	Cyprus	510	132	Burundi	302	200	Turks & Caicos Is.	22
65=	Estonia	510	133	Grenada	299	201	American Samoa	15
65=	Zimbabwe	510	134	Lesotho	297	202	Bhutan	14
68=	AUSTRALIA	506	135	Myanmar	296	203	Montserrat	11

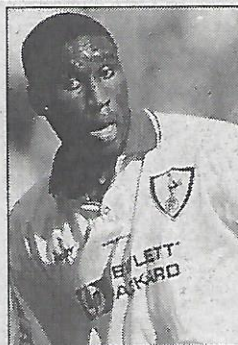
Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

Transfer News ... Transfer News ...

Campbell approach Liverpool

Sol Campbell would like to stay in soccer and hopes to talk to Liverpool soon about a move to Anfield, the defender's agent has said.

"Sol is ready to talk to Liverpool about a possible move in the summer. Discussions are at an early stage, but money at this stage is not an issue," Sky Andrew told skysports.com.



Sol Campbell

"Sol has already spoken to Barcelona, Inter Milan and Real

Madrid so he has options. At this stage he would like to stay in England."

The 26-year-old England international has turned down a new contract offer from Tottenham Hotspur, his club for the last 10 years, and is available on a free transfer.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is in the market for a defender after saying he still needs to sign several new players to mount a serious challenge to Manchester United for the English league title next season.

Liverpool, who won a unique cup treble this season of the English FA, League and UEFA trophies, have qualified for the Champions League next season.

Campbell cited his desire to play in major European club competitions as a main reason for leaving Spurs.

Man Utd to launch bid for Lizarazu

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson expects to buy French left-back Bixente Lizarazu from Bayern Munich and hopes to capture Patrick Vieira from Arsenal, the News of the World has reported.

"The player (Lizarazu) is very keen to join us as soon as possible," Ferguson told the newspaper in his weekly column.

Lizarazu helped Bayern Munich lift the European Cup last week while Vieira is discussing his future at Arsenal.

Ferguson said he had tried and failed to buy a third Frenchman, Zinedine Zidane, from Juventus, as he attempts to win the European Cup for a second time in his final season with the premier league champions.

"I'm chasing six players in the hope of landing three," Ferguson said. "That's the case with all the big clubs. I went in again for Zidane recently but Juventus boss Roberto Bettiga told me to stop wasting my time."



Bixente Lizarazu



Fabrizio Ravanelli

Leicester eye Rava

Leicester City say they are interested in bringing Lazio's Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli back to the Premier League.

Manager Peter Taylor told City's website (www.lcfc.co.uk) that he had contacted Lazio about the availability of the 32-year-old former Italian international, who had an eventful season with Middlesbrough five years ago.

"There is a definite inter-

est in Ravanelli. I would put it no stronger than that at the moment," said Taylor before flying with the England squad to a Spanish training camp ahead of a World Cup qualifier with Greece.

"We have opened the lines of communication but any discussions are still very much in their infancy. It's no secret that we are looking for a striker of high calibre who can play at Premiership level."

Ravanelli has indicated that he would like another chance to play in England.

The striker, capped 22 times by Italy, scored 33 goals in 52 appearances during his 14 month spell at Middlesbrough in 1996-97.

He helped the club reach two cup finals but could not save them from relegation and he left Teeside to join French club Olympique Marseille the following season.

Taylor also confirmed that progress was being made in his efforts to recruit three new players for next season.

"We have opened discussions along several avenues and we are quite hopeful that we will be able to announce something in the not too distant future," he said.

AC Milan grab Alaves' Contra

Alaves wing-back Cosmin Contra is expected to sign with AC Milan in the coming days.

The Romanian international will join former Alaves teammate, Javi Moreno, at the San Siro next season despite late interest from Italian rivals, Roma, Inter Milan and Juventus.

English clubs Leeds United and Tottenham were also linked with

the attacking wing-back.

Contra's buyout clause is £8 million, but Ernesto Bronzetti, Milan's representative, said on Radio Marca that the signing of Contra by Milan is almost done and like Javi Moreno, Milan will not pay the clause, which is why we are still negotiating the price with Alaves. Instead, Milan are expected to offer £14 million for both Contra and Moreno.



Cosmin Contra

2002 W-Cup Qualifiers ... 2002 W-Cup Qualifiers ...

POLAND, ITALY INCH NEARER JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA

Poland, Italy and Russia have edged closer to the 2002 World Cup finals after the early matches in a busy weekend of European qualification action.

Poland came from behind to win 2-1 in Wales and stretch their group five lead to five points.

Nathan Blake put the Welsh ahead after 13 minutes but Emanuele Olisadebe continued his hot streak with a 31st minute equaliser and substitute Pawel Kryszalowicz struck the winner 18 minutes from time.

Poland, who have not reached the finals since 1986, now have 16 points from six games, five clear of Belarus, who could only draw 0-0 in Armenia.

Ukraine remain third on nine points after another goalless draw, at home to Norway.

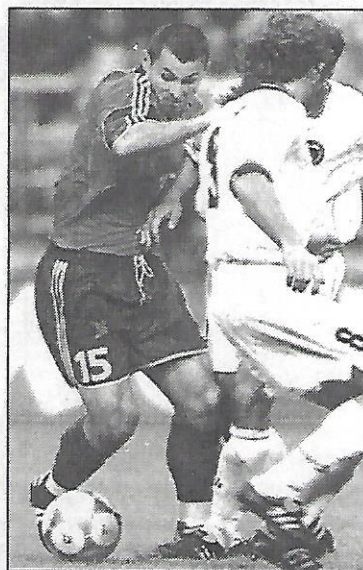
Roma striker Marco Delvecchio put them ahead just before halftime and his Roma team mate Francesco Totti doubled the lead in the 67th minute, racing on to a through ball from Damiano Tomassi and rounding the Georgian keeper before slotting home.

Giorgi Gakhokidze pulled one back for Georgia 10 minutes from the end.

The result, Italy's fifth straight win, leaves them on 16 points from six games, 10 more than second-placed Romania.

Group two remains as tight as ever after Ireland and Portugal drew 1-1 in Dublin.

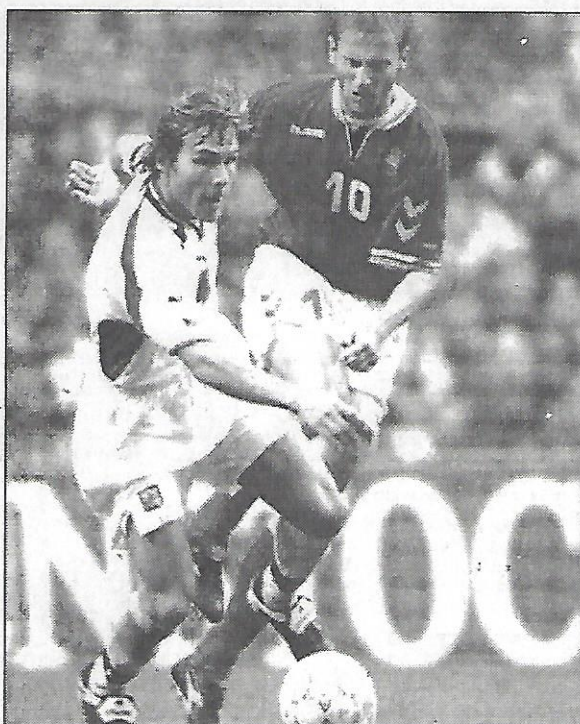
Portugal dominated much of the game but fell behind to a Roy Keane goal in the 62nd minute and needed a 79th minute Luis Figo header to secure a point.



Spain's Javier: Moreno (left) takes the ball from Bosnia-Herzegovina's Bruno Akrapovic.

ALL THE RESULTS

Faroe Islands 0	Switzerland 1
Russia 1	Alexander Frei 80
Yuri Kovtun 25	Yugoslavia 1
Slovenia 2	Predrag Mijatovic 32
Zlatko Zahovic 35, 65pen	Luxembourg 0
Ireland 1	Portugal 1
Roy Keane 65	Luis Figo 79
Estonia 2	Netherlands 4
Andres Oper 65,	Raio Piroja 70 og,
Indrek Zelinski 78	Ruud van Nistelrooy 86,
	88, Patrick Klauwert 90
Northern Ireland 0	Bulgaria 1
	Georgi Ivanov 52
Iceland 3	Malta 0
Tryggvi Gudmundsson 7,	
Rikhardur Dadason 36,	
Eidur Smari Gudjohnsen 68	
Denmark 2	Czech Republic 1
Ebbe Sand 6,	Roman Tyce 40
Jon Dahl Tomasson 82	
Sweden 2	Slovakia 0
Marcus Allback 45, 51	
Macedonia 2	Moldova 2
Armin Sakiri 20pen,	Sergei Pogreban 10,
Milo Krstev 65	Ruslan Barburows 72
Turkey 3	Azerbaijan 0
Tayfun Korkut 2,	
Okay Dereliloglu 29,	
Hakan Sultur 33	
Wales 1	Poland 2
Nathan Blake 13	Emmanuel
	Olisadebe 32,
	Pawel Kryszalowicz 72
Armenia 0	Belarus 0
Belgium 3	Latvia 1
Marc Wilmots 2,	Marians Pahars 52
Emile Mpenza 12,	
Mihails Zemlinskis 50og	
Croatia 4	San Marino 0
Liechtenstein 0	Israel 3
Spain 4	Bosnia 1
Georgia 1	Italy 2
Romania 2	Hungary 0
Finland 2	Germany 2
Greece 1	Albania 0



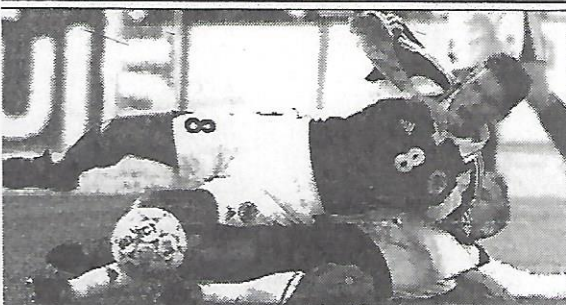
Denmark's Martin Jorgensen (right) fights for the ball with Czech Republic's Pavel Nedved during their World Cup European group three qualifier in Copenhagen.

HOW THEY STAND

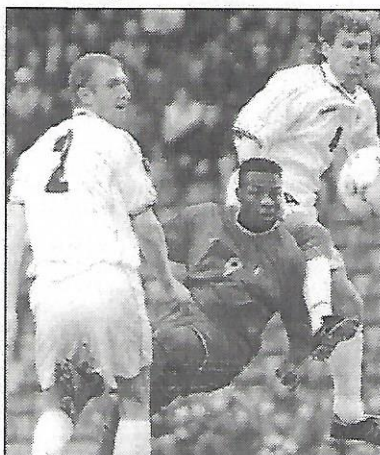
GROUP 1									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Russia	6	4	2	0	8	2	14		
Switzerland	6	3	2	1	14	5	11		
Slovenia	6	2	4	0	10	7	10		
Yugoslavia	5	1	3	1	5	4	6		
Faroe Islands	5	1	1	3	5	9	4		
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	1	16	0		
GROUP 2									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Ireland	7	4	3	0	16	5	15		
Netherlands	7	4	2	1	21	8	14		
Portugal	6	3	3	0	12	5	12		
Estonia	6	2	1	3	8	12	7		
Cyprus	6	2	1	3	10	16	7		
Andorra	8	0	0	8	4	25	0		
GROUP 3									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Bulgaria	6	4	1	1	11	6	13		
Denmark	6	3	3	0	11	4	12		
Czech Rep.	6	3	2	1	7	2	11		
Iceland	6	3	0	3	10	9	9		
Nthn Ireland	6	1	1	4	5	8	4		
GROUP 4									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Turkey	6	4	2	0	10	3	14		
Sweden	6	4	2	0	7	1	14		
Slovakia	6	3	2	1	7	4	11		
Macedonia	6	1	2	3	6	7	5		
Moldova	6	0	3	3	2	7	3		
Azerbaijan	6	0	1	5	1	11	1		
GROUP 5									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Poland	6	5	1	0	15	5	16		
Belarus	6	3	2	1	7	6	11		
Ukraine	6	2	3	1	6	6	9		
Wales	6	0	4	2	6	8	4		
Norway	6	0	3	3	4	7	3		
Armenia	6	0	3	3	5	11	3		
GROUP 6									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Belgium	5	3	2	0	19	4	11		
Scotland	5	3	2	0	10	3	11		
Croatia	4	2	2	0	9	2	8		
Latvia	6	1	1	4	4	13	4		
San Marino	6	0	1	5	2	22	1		
GROUP 7									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Spain	5	4	1	0	14	3	13		
Austria	5	3	2	0	7	3	11		
Israel	5	3	0	2	9	5	9		
Bosnia	5	1	1	3	7	10	4		
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	0	16	0		

NEXT ROUND OF GAMES (Wednesday, June 6)

Switzerland v Slovenia	Israel v Spain	Sweden v Moldova
Luxembourg v Russia	Latvia v Croatia	Azerbaijan v Slovakia
Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia	San Marino v Bulgaria	Iceland v Bulgaria
Greece v England	Norway v Belarus	Denmark v Malta
Ukraine v Germany	Ukraine v Wales	Czech Republic v N. Ireland
Lithuania v Romania	Armenia v Poland	Estonia v Ireland
Hungary v Georgia	Turkey v Macedonia	Portugal v Cyprus



Germany's Michael Ballack (top) falls over Finland's Mika Nurmerla during a soccer World Cup qualifying group nine qualifying match in Helsinki.



Belgium's Emile Mpenza (9) watches his shot go into the Latvian goal as Latvia's players Igors Stepanovs (2) and Mihails Zemlinskis (4).

Images of the Grand Final



WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN ... Ecstatic Wollongong Wolves players hug each other in delight after the final whistle, at the end of their 2-1 victory over South Melbourne at the Parramatta Stadium, on Sunday.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
(Saso Petrovski 56, Stuart Young 57)

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
(John Anastasiadis 78)

Yellow Cards: Steve Iosifidis (SM) 36, Alvin Ceccoli (WW) 79, Fausto De Amicis (SM) 89.

Crowd: 13,402

Venue: Parramatta Stadium

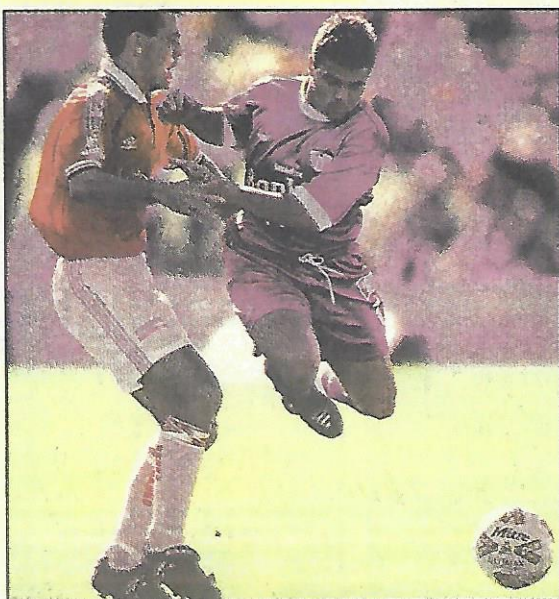
Referee: Edward Lennie

WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

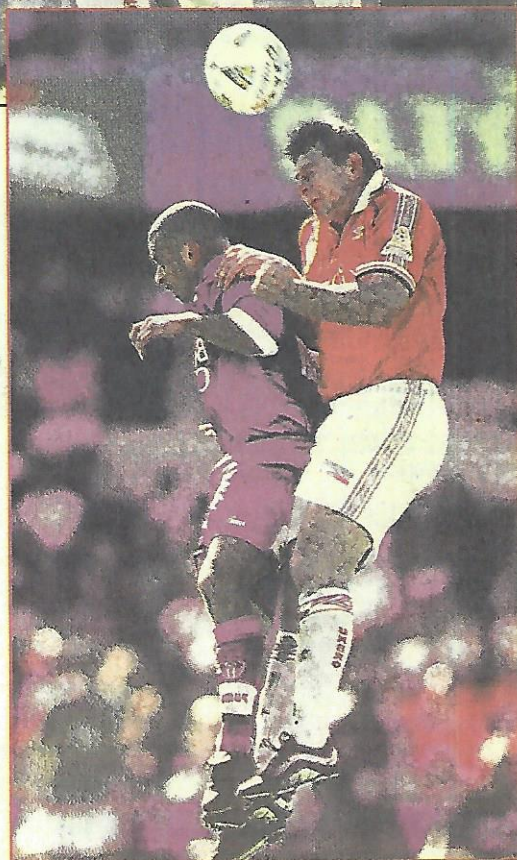
Dean Anastasiadis (gk), George Souris, Alvin Ceccoli, David Cervinski, Matthew Horsley, Paul Reid, Saso Petrovski (Robert Stanton 73), Stuart Young, David Huxley, Ben Blake, Robert Middleby (Dino Mennillo 91).

SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Michael Petkovic (gk), Steve Iosifidis (John Anastasiadis 71), Fausto De Amicis, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Panopoulos, Vaughan Coveny, Con Boutsiaris, Andy Vlahos, Vas Kalogeracos (Goran Lozanovski 65), Zeljko Susa (Paul Trimboli 65) Simon Colosimo.



Paul Reid(left) of the Wolves contests the ball with Andy Vlahos of South Melbourne during the NSL Final between the Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne held at the Parramatta Stadium, Sydney.



David Cervinski (left) of the Wolves contests the ball with Vas Kalogeracos of South Melbourne during the NSL Final between the Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne.